MONDAY
October 9, 2023

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ADITYA-L1

Trajectory correction manoeuvre performed

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Study points to dhole-tiger coexistence

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AFGHANISTAN EARTHQUAKE

Death toll rises to 2,000; 10,000 injured

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Bihar caste survey: A census for a new deal

It is new synthesisation of a class politics

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DAZZLING DUO

Rahul, Kohli power India to victory

SPORT » PAGE 15

NC-Cong. alliance sweeps Kargil election with 22 of 26 seats; BJP wins two

Peerzada Ashiq
KARGIL

At long last: Paramilitary personnel stand guard outside a counting centre in Kargil on Sunday. ANI

The National Conference-Congress combine swept the election to the 26-member Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil, bagging 22 seats in the first polls held since Ladakh was carved out as a Union Territory in 2019. The Bharatiya Janata Party won two seats.

The National Conference (NC), which is also a part of the wider Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), won 12 seats, while the Congress bagged 10.

The INDIA partners lost to the BJP in one of the seats where they fielded candidates against each other. Independent candidates won two seats.

During the campaigning, the NC pitched the election as a referendum on the Centre's actions on August 5, 2019, when Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional position was ended and the State split into two Union Territories.

BJP pitch

The BJP contested these polls on the development initiatives undertaken in the region after 2019.

"It's a resounding rejection of the BJP's politics that saw J&K divided and downgraded, with our constitutionally guaranteed status abolished. The people of Kargil have shown that they do not support or agree with what was done to them on 5th August 2019," NC vice-president Omar Abdullah told *The Hindu*.

The October 4 election saw 77.61% of the 74,026 registered voters cast their ballot.

CONTINUED ON
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Israeli air strikes pound Gaza as death toll climbs

Reports say at least 600 killed in attacks by Hamas; Gaza Health Ministry says 370 dead in Israel's retaliatory strikes; Israeli military deploys tens of thousands of soldiers around Gaza

Reuters
JERUSALEM/GAZA

Israel battered Gaza on Sunday after suffering its bloodiest attack in decades, when Hamas fighters rampaged through Israeli towns killing 600 and abducting dozens more, as the spiralling violence threatened a major new war in West Asia.

Israeli air strikes hit housing blocks, tunnels, a mosque, and the homes of Hamas officials in Gaza, killing more than 370 people, including 20 children, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed "mighty vengeance for this black day".

In a sign the conflict could spread beyond blockaded Gaza, Israel exchanged artillery and rocket fire with the Lebanon-based Iran-backed Hezbollah militia.

Attack from the sky: A ball of fire and smoke rises above a building in Gaza City during an Israeli air strike on Saturday. AFP

In Alexandria, two Israeli tourists were shot dead along with their Egyptian guide.

In southern Israel, Hamas gunmen were still fighting Israeli security forces 24 hours after a surprise, multi-pronged assault of rocket barrages and bands of gunmen who overran Army bases and invaded border towns.

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MORE REPORTS
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Indians asked to remain in contact with embassy

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan on Sunday said the government was ready for "any emergency situation" in Israel, and urged Indian citizens there to stay in contact with the Indian Embassy.

Nepal's Foreign Ministry said 10 students from the country died in the Israeli conflict.

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NEARBY

Metro corridor launch takes a political turn

BENGALURU
The much-awaited Whitefield-Challaghatta metro corridor (Purple Line) is set to commence passenger services on Monday. The much awaited inauguration, has also taken a political colour now. » PAGE 3

Godown fire: Death toll 14

BENGALURU
The death toll in the firecracker accident at Attibele, near Bengaluru, touched 14 on Saturday night. The accident occurred at Balaji Cracker Shop, a shop-cum-godown, on Saturday due to an explosion while crackers were being unloaded from a vehicle.

» PAGE 2

Indian leaders wield new digital megaphone

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Political leaders are quietly establishing a base on WhatsApp Channels, a one-way broadcasting medium launched in September by the messaging platform. Soon after the launch, Prime Minister Modi opened an official account, which has garnered almost 9 million followers so far.

Other BJP leaders were quick to establish their own channels. The feature represents WhatsApp's evolution from a tool in political outreach – through dedicated groups and forwarded messages, especially before elections – to a full-fledged medium in and of itself, where leaders can reach audiences directly and immediately.

Home Minister Amit Shah is one of the new entrants (17,000 followers), as are Minister of Minority Affairs and Women & Child Development Smriti Irani (2,000), and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar (22,000). They have not made any public announcement promoting their channels, but the number of followers are growing steadily.

Opposition leaders have also quickly established their bases. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge created his channel on September 19, the same day as Mr. Modi, while former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi (6,09,000) did so the following day.

Mr. Modi's first post on his channel was a picture of himself, sitting at a desk in the new Parliament building. Ministers have also used their channels to talk about their work, and to advance the government's priorities.

Video of man's body being burnt in a trench surfaces in Manipur

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

In another horrific video from Manipur, the body of a tribal man is seen being set on fire in a trench. A police official said the video appeared to be from early May and that they were investigating the case. The seven-second video, marked as "Kuki", was shared on several WhatsApp groups in Manipur on Sunday.

CONTINUED ON
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Jeakson — Blasters' beating heart

The 22-year-old has been ever-present in Indian football for half a decade now; the defensive midfielder is a vital cog in Vukomanovic and Stimac's sides, anchoring both teams with efficiency and flair

FOOTBALL

Pranay Rajiv

If you watch Indian midfielder Jeakson Singh go about his way on a football pitch, you would feel he is playing to a different tune compared to the rest on the field.

His loose-limbed approach undersells the pressure he is often under. He is unfazed by opponents breathing down his neck as he evades challenges to make a tough play look all too easy. The game flows through the defensive midfielder as much as he flows with the game.

"It comes out of experience. The more you play, the more you know about your mistakes and the better you can improve your skills. I believe there are two types of players. The first ones are the naturally talented bunch and then there are guys with a little bit of talent, but with a lot of hard work. I belong to the second group," said Jeakson.

But, like many, the defensive midfield was never Jeakson's original calling.

"Like all kids, I wanted to play as an attacker and score goals. But when I joined the academy in Chandigarh, my coach told me that I would be better off as a midfielder. I even tried defence for a while, but soon I understood midfield is where I belong," said Jeakson, who stars for Kerala Blasters in the Indian Super League.

The 22-year-old is well aware of the hidden-in-shadows cloak he has chosen to adorn. "A midfielder can't be measured by goals or clean sheets. We are the backbone of the team. We connect the defence to the attack and the other way around. It is a tough job," he added with a laugh.

Jeakson, who hails from Manipur, maybe the most accomplished footballer in his family, but he is hardly the only one. His cousin Amarjit Singh Kiyam represents Punjab FC in the ISL, while his sister Kritina Devi Thounaojam has played for India at youth levels.

Jeakson credits his father, Deben Thounaojam, who represented Manipur Police in football, for the family's success in the global game.

"My father was a huge football fan. But he couldn't reach where he wanted to. He was a sports lover, but he had a special thing for football. First, he introduced my brother to boxing and then to football. Then Amarjit, me and my sister followed. My father sacrificed a lot to help us to reach where we are today."

Making of Jeakson

Jeakson's growth as a footballer received its biggest lift off when he joined the Chandigarh Football Academy.

"Amarjit and his brother were already there and that helped me initially. It was a big step in my career. It was a difficult one for me and my family. The first year, I was crying every day - in the school, in the hostel. The food was different. Everything was hard. But that decision moulded the player that I am today."

Today, Jeakson is one of the most prominent midfielders in Indian football, capable of stamping authority on a game with his delicate finesse. He is also the longest-serving player in Blasters ranks, a side famous for its hyper-energetic fan base.

Jeakson took the call to join KBFC soon after he starred for the national side in the 2017 Under-17 World Cup, where he became the first Indian to score a World Cup goal. He was, arguably, the hottest property in Indian football then. But his decision was guided by one big factor.

Jeakson, *right in pic*, became the first Indian to score in a FIFA World Cup, when he found the net against Colombia in the 2017 Under-17 tournament

He is the longest-serving player in the current KBFC squad

The defensive midfielder was an integral part of the Indian side which secured the SAFF Championship title and the Intercontinental Cup

Blasters kickstarted the 10th season of the ISL on a positive note, securing victories against Bengaluru FC and Jamshedpur FC at home, before going down 1-2 away against Mumbai City FC

The *Manjappada* factor

"I did have a few other offers. But Kerala Blasters' fans helped with my decision. I have always wanted to play in front of a large, passionate crowd. That is why I joined KBFC."

"The fans give us extra energy. When you feel tired, the power of the fans' voice helps you make that extra sprint, that extra effort. It makes us feel fearless," he added.

Despite the unrelenting support offered by the legion of supporters, Blasters have been a side which has often flattered to deceive. But its fortunes changed with the arrival of Serbian manager Ivan Vukomanovic in 2021. The Kochi-based side reached the final in his first year and went on to make the playoffs the next season, only to be eliminated in a controversial knockout game against Bengaluru FC.

Vukomanovic's arrival also marked an upturn in Jeakson's fortunes, with the youngster becoming a regular feature in the playing XI, often entrusted with anchoring the side from the midfield, a role ISL sides don't usually hand to Indian players, let alone to one barely out of his teens.

"I think I know what he wants from me and he knows what to expect from me. It's an honour for me that the coach trusts me so much. It is up to me to prove him right in every training session and every match."

"He deserves all the love he is getting. The amount of history we have made under him says everything. We all know he is more famous than all the players in our team," Jeakson said with a chuckle.

> I think I know what he (Vukomanovic) wants from me and he knows what to expect from me. It's an honour for me that the coach trusts me so much. It is up to me to prove him right in every training session and every match
>
> JEAKSON SINGH

Blasters have kickstarted the 10th season of the ISL on a positive note, securing hard-fought victories against Bengaluru FC and Jamshedpur FC at home, beforing going down 1-2 away against Mumbai City FC.

"I am really happy about it. I think this is the first time we have won the first two games of a season.

"It is just the beginning. We have a long way to go. We have to stay humble and we have to get better if we want to reach our goals," he said.

Jeakson's growing role with Blasters over the last couple of years also led to him being a constant presence in the national team, with Indian coach Igor Stimac deploying him in a role similar to what he executes with the club.

The defensive midfielder was an integral part of the Indian side which secured the SAFF Championship title and the Intercontinental Cup.

Jeakson was the shield in front of the Indian defence, picking up loose balls with hunger and driving the side forward with sharp passes.

"It is always a proud moment when you receive a national team call-up. I love the feeling of representing the country. I hope to continue doing so."

India is set to embark upon a tough few months, starting with the Merdeka Cup later this month and the AFC Asian Cup in January.

"I am excited about the upcoming challenges. We are going up against some big teams and I want to test my skills against them. We all want to prove that we are no less than any team and we can beat anyone," said Jeakson.

It is easy to forget that Jeakson is still only 22, mostly because he has been ever-present in Indian football for half a decade.

He was young enough to be picked as a not-a-senior player at the Asian Games and is often as young as the many 'break-out' stars of Indian football.

The success he has achieved so early in his career hasn't dimmed his ambitions.

"Like every footballer, I dream of playing at the highest level. If I get a chance to play at the top level - that is European football - I would love to give it a go."

"It is hard for an Indian footballer to be spotted. That is why I am looking forward to the international tournaments so that I can showcase my talents on a bigger stage against better opponents."

Right now, his quest is simple. Bring home a much-awaited title for the adoring *Manjappada*, the fan army of the Blasters. And the Yellow Army, shielded by Jeakson, has started on the right note.

GAME TIME

Test yourself on some assorted trivia and questions across various sports and games

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
In his autobiography *Sunny Days*, the altercation between which two players in the Indian dressing room during the 1975 World Cup did Sunil Gavaskar describe as 'more like a bout between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, the difference being that both threatened each other with bats'.

QUESTION 2
Name the only two male tennis players to win over 100 singles titles in the Open era.

QUESTION 3
Who or what are 'Congcong', 'Chenchen', and 'Lianlian'?

QUESTION 4
How many hurdling barriers and water jumps should athletes tackle in a 3000m steeplechase event?

QUESTION 5
Apart from 2018, which was the other edition of the Asian Games where neither India nor Pakistan featured in the men's hockey finals?

QUESTION 6
In wrestling who is the 'Chef de Tapis'?

QUESTION 7
In artistic gymnastics, what is the order of apparatuses followed by women participants?

QUESTION 8
What is special about South African wicketkeeper Percy Sherwell's 13 Test appearances?

QUESTION 9
Who was the first woman to do the 'all-rounder's double' of 1000 runs and 100 wickets in ODIs?

QUESTION 10
Ranchi Rhinos, Kalinga Lancers, and Delhi Waveriders have been winners of which multi-team competition?

ANSWERS

1. Farokh Engineer and Abid Ali, 2. Jimmy Connors (109) and Roger Federer (103), 3. The mascots for the ongoing Asian Games, 4. 28 barriers and seven water jumps, 5. At the Doha Games in 2006 where South Korea beat China to take the gold, 6. The mat chairman, one of three officials in a bout, 7. Vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor, 8. He was the skipper in all of them!, 9. Lisa Sthalekar, 10. Hockey India League, 11. Omprakash Agarwal

Question 11: Identity this cueist, one of the two Indians (other being Pankaj Advani) to have won the IBSF World Snooker Championship THE HINDU ARCHIVES

EDUCATIONPLUS

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With the quest for learning and skilling being a lifelong process, students must be encouraged to develop a growth mindset

Vinay Kumar Swamy

Skilling has, today, become vital in an individual's journey to acquire knowledge and develop essential abilities. To foster a growth mindset and cultivate lifelong learners who will shape the future workforce, it is crucial for skilling to commence during the learning phase in school. For students, the quest to learn more and get into new areas of knowledge is crucial for future growth. It is important to develop a mindset that will take them out of their comfort zone.

Question of perception

This quest for learning comes from a growth mindset. Such students believe that change is constant and are always willing to learn and find out new things to further their careers. They believe intelligence and talent can be developed with practice and effort and have a strong conviction that they can acquire abilities through effort and study. To such people, mistakes are a natural part of the learning process and failure is not something to be ashamed about. Rather, it is an opportunity to learn and grow. Therefore, those with a growth mindset tend to be great managers, as they are constantly looking out for self-improvement and are ready to embrace change.

Contrast this with a fixed mindset. Such people believe that change cannot be forced. Students with a fixed mindset believe that abilities are innate: something that one is born with and that there is little room for improvement. Intelligence, talent, and other qualities are seen as fixed assets. These students are risk-averse and view feedback as a personal attack. Failure is seen as a reflection of their inherent ability and as something to be feared. Therefore, they avoid challenging tasks or taking risks because they are not confident of success. This can also lead to avoidance of new experiences or opportunities that could push them out of their comfort zone.

Challenges

However, fostering a growth mindset has its own set of challenges. These include cultural beliefs, learning differences, and external pressures. While cultural beliefs naturally limit a person's ability to think out-of-the-box and seek new areas of learning, students and professionals with learning differences develop a complex and believe that they are not capable of success at a particular task. Then there is external pressure and expectations from parents and peers, which limit thinking and seeking more. *The Harvard Business Review* lists fear of failure, negative self-talk, lack of support from friends and peer groups, and lack of access to resources or mentors who can help one learn new skills and overcome challenges, as major challenges in the path of developing a growth mindset.

The best strategy to foster in a growth mindset in students is to encourage good work and celebrate successes. Teachers, who play a key role in fostering a growth mindset, can emphasise that intelligence and abilities can grow by praising students for their hard work, rather than their natural talent. They can also help students by celebrating mistakes and setbacks, rather than viewing them as negative events. At the same time, they can challenge students by providing them with opportunities to learn new things and take on challenges and provide feedback by giving specific and actionable advice on how to improve. Finally, they can create a positive learning environment by being supportive and encouraging, and by creating a classroom where students feel respected and valued.

There are many resources that can help students develop a growth mindset. While the Internet has abundant resources, teachers have a special duty to use them to inculcate the growth mindset and increase the quest for upskilling. In the classroom, teachers can assign tasks as challenges to students, and provide feedback on their performance. This will develop a sense of achievement and increase the quest to move forward. At the same time, students need to challenge themselves constantly by setting goals that are challenging but achievable. They should also be open to feedback and use it as an opportunity to learn and grow and celebrate their success. The quest to learn and upskill is never ending and should continue through the lifetime. And this is possible only with the development of a growth mindset.

The writer is Country Head, Pearson India.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Chevening Scholarships 2024-25
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Application: Online
Deadline: November 7
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Santoor Scholarship Programme
Aims to support the UG studies of young women from disadvantaged backgrounds.
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The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) aims to provide financial assistance to meritorious single girl children (only child of parents) who have passed Class 10 exam from any CBSE-affiliated school.
Eligibility: Open to girl students who are Indian nationals and have secured 60% or more marks in first five subjects in Class 10 exam. Tuition fee of more than ₹ 1,500 per month.
Rewards: ₹500 per month
Deadline: October 18
Application: Online
www.b4s.in/edge/CMSS3

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

SAVE THE DATE

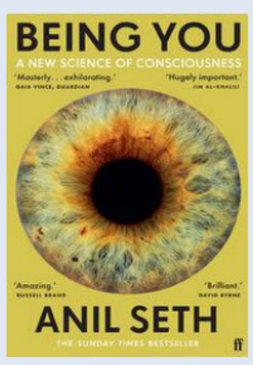
For Not For International Debate competition
VIjaybhoomi University has announced the fourth edition of For Not For (FNF) 2023 International debate competition. This year's FNF is collaborating with Youth 20 (Y20).
Dates: Preliminary and Pre-Quarters will be held online on October 14, 15 and 21. Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Final rounds will be held on November 4 and 5 at the Vijaybhoomi campus in Karjat.
Deadline: October 12.
https://fnf.vijaybhoomi.edu.in

SIB Finathon
South Indian Bank, in association with the Enactus-IIT-Delhi, invites applications for SIB Finathon.
Challenges: Gamification, Virtual Branch, and Hyper-personalisation of the mobile app.
Participation: Teams of 3-5 people.
Deadline: October 10
www.southindianbank.com

ecoXplorers 2023 Quiz Competition
Azim Premji University invites for ecoXplorers 2023, an Intercollege Quiz.
Date and time: October 22, 8.15 a.m. to 12.15 pm
Venue: NIMHANS Convention Centre, Hosur Main Road, Lakkasandra, Hombegowda Nagar, Bengaluru
Themes: Planetary phenomena, climate change, biodiversity, urban ecology.
Eligibility: Open to UG and PG students from from any discipline. Each institute can send a maximum of three teams.
Deadline: October 10
https://bitly.ws/Wptk
For clarifications, write to forestsoflife@apu.edu.in

ON THE SHELF

Being You: A New Science of Consciousness
Being You is not as simple as it sounds. Somehow, within each of our brains, billions of neurons work to create our conscious experience. How does this happen? Why do we experience life in the first person?
After over 20 years researching the brain, neuroscientist Anil Seth, professor of Cognitive and Computational Neuroscience at the University of Sussex, puts forward a radical new theory of consciousness and self. His unique theory of what it means to 'be you' challenges our understanding of perception and reality and it turns what you thought you knew about yourself on its head. The book also looks at the relationship between humans, animals, and the potential for machines to have consciousness.
Anil Seth's radical new theory of consciousness challenges our understanding of perception and reality, doing for brain science what Dawkins did for evolutionary biology.
Author: Anil Seth
Publisher: Penguin Random House
Price: ₹599



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Death toll in cracker godown blaze rises to 14

Chief Minister announces probe by the Criminal Investigation Department; Attibele police have registered a case against the owner of the shop-cum-godown, his son, and the building owner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The death toll in the firecracker accident at Attibele near Bengaluru has reached 14, up from 13 on Saturday night.

The accident occurred at Balaji Firecracker Shop, a shop-cum-godown, on Saturday due to an explosion while crackers were being unloaded from a vehicle.

Accident site: The remains of a vehicle and shops a day after a blaze triggered by firecracker explosion at Attibele, near Bengaluru, on Sunday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

CM visits site

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who along with other Ministers and senior officials visited the spot on Sunday, announced a probe by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) into the accident.

The police have identified bodies of 11 victims – Prakash, 20, a resident of Neepathurai village in Harur taluk of Dharmapuri district; Vettappan, 25, Aathikesavan, 23, Vijayaraghavan, 20, Ilambaruthi, 19, Akash, 23, Giri, 22, and Sachin, 22, all residents of Ammapettai village also in Harur taluk; and Prabhakaran, 17, Vasantharaj, 23, and Appas, 23, who hailed from Kallakurichi district of Tamil Nadu.

Sources in the police said that since the bodies were heavily charred, it was a Herculean task to identify them. Meanwhile, there are three unidentified bodies kept at Oxford Medical College Hospital, Attibele. Teams from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Madiwala, are expected to carry out DNA tests on these bodies to match with samples from their relatives, to identify them.

Seven injured

A total of seven persons have been injured in the accident. Three of the injured, Naveen Reddy – son of the owner of the cracker shop Ramaswamy Reddy, both of whom have been arrested – Rajesh and Venkatesh, are being treated at St. John's Medical College Hospital. They suffered severe burns and internal injuries due to inhalation of smoke. The next 72 hours are critical, sources said. Four others – Sanjay, Chandru, Rajesh, and Paul Kabir – are being treated at Oxford Medical College Hospital.

The Attibele police have arrested three persons, including the owner of the building Anil Reddy. They have been booked under sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 285 and 286 (negligent conduct with respect to explosive substance), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of Indian Penal Code, apart from under various sections of The Explosive Substances Act, 1908.

FSL teams camping at the accident site and Fire and Emergency Services personnel who put out the blaze on Saturday said the shop also acted as a godown for firecrackers illegally. There were large quantities of crackers, beyond permissible limits, stored in the shop without any safety guidelines, which led to the fire accident.

K.A. Dayanand, Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru (Urban), said they had permitted the shop to sell and not to store firecrackers. "The owner has violated the licence conditions and stored more than 1,000 kg of firecrackers. The licencing authority has not permitted anyone to store crackers," he said.

Fire safety concerns soar as highway stretch is lined with cracker shops

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
ATTIBELE/HOSUR

Thousands of vehicles travelling on the national highway from Bengaluru to Hosur, located in Tamil Nadu just across the border, pass by over 50 permanent firecracker shops on both sides. This setup poses a significant fire safety risk which locals are now questioning authorities after the tragic incident at Attibele, where 14 lives were lost in a fire at a cracker godown-cum-shop on Saturday.

The Balaji Firecracker Shop, which was gutted on Saturday, was amid several other establishments, including a restaurant, liquor stores, and a few small eateries. Notably, within just 200 metres of the accident site, there were more than six other firecracker shops. Most of these shops were housed in buildings built very close to each other, with little ventilation, setback, and access areas, *The Hindu* found on Sunday.

Tanveer, a resident of the area, said, "If the fire had spread to nearby shops and eventually to other firecracker stores, the impact on both lives and businesses would have been devastating. Fortunately, the timely arrival of the fire brigade helped contain the flames."

Charred: Some of the vehicles that were damaged in the accidental fire at a cracker shop at Attibele. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Liquor stores, eateries

At the site of the accident, there is a significant flow of vehicles and parked cars, coupled with a high volume of pedestrian traffic. This bustling activity is further intensified due to the presence of more than three liquor stores and restaurants in close proximity. A local resident, Tarak Prasad, pointed out, "Right next to Balaji firecracker shop, there is a liquor store, and on the other side, there's a restaurant, along with yet another firecracker shop. It's concerning how authorities have allowed the placement of firecracker shops amid places where a large number of people gather. This situation could have been extremely dangerous. Those responsible for granting licences to firecracker shops should exercise caution, and the government must take action against the officials accountable for such decisions."

Deepavali rush

Nearing the Deepavali festival, when the demand for firecrackers surges, shops at Attibele cater to this by selling firecrackers at wholesale prices. These businesses here are a spillover of Hosur, located a short distance away, which is a hub of firecracker sales.

Meanwhile, the proximity of numerous liquor stores to firecracker shops has raised concerns among the locals. Many shop owners, licensed in other parts of the city, have set up shops here, drawing customers from Tamil Nadu. This influx occurs because the neighbouring State restricts the sale of several liquor brands, prompting many to travel to this area for their purchases for specific brands.

"Many people from Hosur come here to buy liquor since they can find a variety of brands. To cater to these customers, small eateries such as biryani stalls have emerged in the area, along with paan and cigarette shops. Adjacent to these establishments are the firecracker shops," Rajiv Reddy said.

Fire safety audit

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said all the district administrations had been issued directions to conduct a fire safety audit of all firecracker godowns across the State to ensure no such accident occurs again in the run-up to Deepavali.

Alok Mohan, Director-General and Inspector-General of Police, visited the site on Sunday and assured that stringent measures would be taken against these hazardous illegal firecracker shops in the area.

Following his visit to the site, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the firecrackers stored at the godown lacked essential safety precautions.

He said, "The owners disregarded all regulations, resulting in the tragic death of 14 people. The investigation will determine the legality of the godown."

Shops remain closed in Hosur

The Hindu Bureau
ATTIBELE/HOSUR

Following the firecracker shop accident at Attibele, all the cracker shops located after the Karnataka border in Hosur, Tamil Nadu, were closed on Sunday.

Locals in Hosur said the reason for the closure of the shops was unknown. However, after the incident at Attibele, many shop owners have voluntarily chosen to shut down their businesses.

Kumara, a local street vendor, said "Usually, the firecrackers shops here remain open 365 days. Today, however, all of them are closed. It is said that after the fire accident at Attibele, the shops are closed."

Firecracker shops located across the Karnataka border at Hosur were shut on Sunday, a day after the Attibele tragedy. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Dreams of a better life cut short by tragedy

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Periyasamy, a resident of Ammapettai village in Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu, was inconsolable on Sunday as he came to collect the charred remains of his 23-year-old son, Aathikesavan, who was killed in the cracker godown fire accident at Attibele across the border near Bengaluru on Saturday. "We had big dreams. He wanted to continue his education, which we couldn't afford. So he had come here to work and earn some money to pay college fees. But now, both his and my dreams are shattered," he told *The Hindu*.

This is not an isolated case. Of the 14 killed in the fire accident, most were in their late teens or early twenties, studying or just completed their undergraduate courses and were working at the firecracker godown-cum-store to make some money to support either their education or their poor struggling-to-meet-the-ends families. The very fact that even graduates were doing menial jobs of loading and unloading and packaging crackers, is probably an indication of their family's financial troubles.

Vediyappan, the father of another victim, Sachin, 22, shared that his son had recently earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and had started working here just one week before the tragedy occurred. "He had a dream of becoming a police officer," he added.

Long wait: Exhausted family members of the fire accident victims on the premises of Oxford Medical College Hospital at Attibele on Sunday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

BBA graduate

Appu, a friend of Antony Paul Raj, 30, whose body is suspected to be among the three unidentified ones found at the accident site, said the latter had a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree and worked as a collection agent at a finance firm earlier, but had to quit over workplace issues.

"As friends, we often took up part-time jobs of loading and unloading firecracker boxes that arrived in Hosur from Sivakasi. Antony had been doing this work regularly every year before Deepavali. We were paid based on the number of boxes we handled, earning ₹6 for each box. On Saturday, he did not inform any of us and had come here, only to end up dead," he said. Antony is survived by his mother and twin brothers.

> My son wanted to continue his education, which we couldn't afford. So he had come here to work and earn some money to pay college fees. But now, both his and my dreams are shattered.
>
> **PERIYASAMY,** father of Aathikesavan, one of the victims

Packaging work

These individuals had been working for the past 15 days, packaging firecrackers that were sourced from Sivakasi. "This firecracker shop has been in business for the last 10 years and holds a valid licence to operate. Approximately 20 people are employed here for packaging purposes. Typically, firecrackers are transported from Sivakasi loose. These young men were responsible for packaging these crackers into boxes, which included various kinds of crackers. Every year many young boys come to Attibele and work in the firecracker shops before Deepavali, make some money and go back to support their families," said Nataraj Kumar, the owner of a shop near the accident site.

Meanwhile, some families of the victims found it impossible to identify the bodies as they were charred beyond recognition. Mohan, a relative of one of the victims, said, "It is a horrific experience; the bodies were so badly burnt that we can't even distinguish them. Everybody is severely charred, leaving us with no choice but to opt for DNA testing to identify and claim the bodies."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients, **Sri. Dhanunjaya Reddy Kamireddy** S/o **Narasimha Reddy Kamireddy** and **Smt. Aruna Kumari Kamireddy,** W/o **Sri. Dhanunjaya Reddy Kamireddy,** both residing at 8-3-230/A/1/408, Sai Spurthy Enclave, Venkatagiri, Hyderabad - 500045, have entered into a supplementary Agreement to the LLP Agreement deed dated 26.04.2022 with **M/s. JUPITER VENTURES LLP** represented by its Designated Partners Dr. Upendra Kumar Kandluri, S/o Naganna Kandluri & Dr. Jothi Neeraja Satyananda, W/o Upendra Kumar Kandluri with respect to property mentioned in the schedule below.

Our clients have filed a suit before the Hon'ble City Civil Judge, Bangalore in O.S.No. 6027/2023 (CCH-14) against the said persons, seeking permanent Injunction restraining them from alienating or encumbering the schedule property. **M/s JUPITER VENTURES LLP** represented by its Designated Partners stated above have filed a suit in **OS.No.6166/2023** before the City Civil Court (CCH-28) against our clients.

The Public are hereby informed not to deal in respect of the said property with the above said persons and any person/s dealing or transacting in respect of the said property with the said person/s will do so at their own risk and such transactions will not bind our client's rights under the said agreement or the suit to any extent whatsoever.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

1) All that piece and parcel of property, where **PEOPLE TREE HOSPITAL** is situated, being industrial land bearing Municipal New No.2, (earlier bearing site No.2) measuring East to West 140' and North to South 250', totally measuring 35,000 sft, together with industrial building constructed thereon with a built up area of 80,089 sft comprising Basement, Ground, First, Second and Third floors, and bounded on:

East by: Site No.1; **West by:** Site No.3;
North by: Service Road and **South by:** Site No.17

situated at **Tumkur Road, Bengaluru, Ward No.11, Peenya Industrial Area, bearing BBMP PID No.11-50-2, industrial Suburb, II stage, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru.** along with

2) All that piece and parcel of property measuring 35,500 sft and adjoining the schedule property mentioned above and bearing **Site no. 17, BBMP-PID No. 11-50-17** situated at Rajaji Nagar II stage, Industrial suburb, Bengaluru on which **M/S. JUPITER VENTURES LLP** has a 29 years and 11 months lease rights, forms part of the suit filed by our clients.

Sd/- **SIVA LAW ASSOCIATES, Advocates**
#22/2,1st floor, 7thCross, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru - 560 027.
Ph: 9066681644; email: pamps05@gmail.com

IN THE COURT OF I ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU (CCH-2)
P & SC. NO. 565 /2023

BETWEEN:1. SMT. INDIRADEVI.R, Wife of Late R.V.J Srinivasan, also known as R.V. Jayaprakash Srinivasan **2. SMT. ARUNA SHANTHI** Daughter of Late R.V.J Srinivasan, also known as R.V. Jayaprakash Srinivasan and Wife of Pavan Kumar.S Both are residing at # 425/17 Viswamitra 6th Cross, 6th Main, 5th Stage, 1st Phase, Near New Horizon School BEML layout Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore south Bengaluru-560 098 **PETITIONERS AND:NIL** ...RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named filed this petition under Part X Chapter Xiii Section 372 Of The Indian Succession Act 1925, for the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioners, in respect of schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule has held by Late R.V.J Srinivasan, husband of petitioner No.1 and father of Petitioner No.2 herein who expired on 19.07.2021 at Bangalore

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or by pleader duly instructed on the **20th day of November, 2023 at 11 a.m.** inform to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-parte.

SCHEDULE-PPF Account No. 10363933698 aggregate a sum of Rs.5,00000(Rupees five lacks Only) along with interest amount.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the 5th day of October, 2023

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Assistant Registrar
City Civil Court, Bangalore

Address for service Netharavati T. V
Advocate for Petitioner KAR 1062/10

IN THE COURT OF THE LXIV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU
CRL. R.P NO. 590/2022

BETWEEN:
Smt. MIHIKA CHAKRABORTY, W/o. Mr. Kallol Ranjan Chakraborty, Aged about 47 years, Rep. by SP HOLDER MR. KALLOL RANJAN CHAKRABORTY, S/o. Priti Ranjan, Aged about 51 years, Residing at No. E-302, Coronet Greens Apartment, Sarjapura Road, Bellandur Gate, Bengaluru 560102
...PETITIONER

A N D
1. M/S. GOLDEN GATE PROPERTIES LTD., & OTHERS
...RESPONDENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the petitioner has been made petition before the LXIV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU against the above named Respondents shown herein below has committed (or is suspected to have committed) under section 138 of N.I.Act and no summons was received by the respondent and whereas it ha been shown to LXIV ADDL. CITY CIVIL SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU, satisfaction that the respondents named below have avoid the service of summons. Proclamation is hereby made that the said respondent No.2,4 & 5 required to appear before the LXIV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU to answer the said petition on 08.11.2023

Mr. PRATAP KUNDA - Aged by major,Managing Director, M/s. Golden Gate Properties Limited
Respondent No.2

Mr. T. KRISHNAN, Aged by major, Director of M/s. Golden Gate Properties Ltd.
Respondent No.4

5. Mr. PRASAD RAO PASAM Aged by major, Director of M/s. Golden Gate Properties Ltd.
Respondent No.5

Respondent No.2, 4 & 5 At Registered Office: No. 820, 80 feet Road, 8th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru 560 095

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the Court, on this 20th day of September 2023

By order of the court
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
LXIV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU

ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER
DEVA & CO., No. 36/4, 2nd Floor, S.S. Palya, 27th Main, Sector 2, HSR Layout,BENGALURU

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No: GSU-2023-ABS-3Stn-Tele
Closing Date : 30-10-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Telecom arrangements for Amrit Bharat Station at Chikkamagaluru, Arsikere & Tiptur Stations of Mysuru Division.	Rs. 3,99,45,634.50

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 30-10-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Project Manager / S&T / Gati Shakti
PUB/423/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum-2 to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/59/2023 Dated : 10-08-2023

Name of the Work : Construction of New Broad Gauge Railway Line between Hadihalli (Excl.) (54880) and Belur (Incl.) (66480) (11.60 km) Under Kadur - Chikkamagalur - Belur New Line Project Including General Electrical and Electrification Works. **(Tender Ref. No.: Hadihalli-Belur-EPC)**

Approximate Value	
Existing	Revised
Rs. 247,50,10,000/-	Rs. 228,61,60,029/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 25-10-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/421/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Mr.Mohammed Ershad @ Mohammed Ershad Ahmed s/o Mohammed Eqbal Ahmed** to bring the notice of the general public that the original registered sale deed doc.No.3636/1974-75 of Book-I, Volum-180, Page 32-34 date. 25.09.1974, executed by **Sri.Alagiriswamy** in favour of Sri.Rangaswamy is missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the residential property bearing new municipal **No.45** (old municipal No.45 & 45/1) (old Site No.27 and then 78), situated at **10th Main Road, Gokula 1st Stage, 2nd Phase, Mathikere,** Ward No.45, old ward No.4, BBMP PID No.4-119-45, now comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 30 feet, in all measuring **1500 Sq.feet,** and bounded by:

East by : Property bearing No.108, West by : Road, North by : Property No.77, South by : Property No.79.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Auction for leasing of Parcel Space, Parking & Out of home advertisement / Publicity

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites bidders for E-Auctions on the following Dates.

1) Catering & MPS : 16-10-2023, 17-10-2023, 25-10-2023, 26-10-2023, 30-10-2023 & 31-10-2023
2) Parcels : 11-10-2023 & 16-10-2023
3) Advertising & ATM contracts on : 10-10-2023 & 27-10-2023
4) Parking, Pay & Use : 10-10-2023, 11-10-2023, 12-10-2023, 16-10-2023, 19-10-2023 & 27-10-2023
5) MISC contract : 31-10-2023

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/418/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No. CAO/CN/BNC/73/2023
Dated : 29-09-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Londa - Miraj	Rs. 78,66,80,128/-

Doubling Project : Construction of RUB of 2x5.5x5.0m with RCC BOX segment in lieu of LC No. 360 at Km 584/600-700 in Khanapur Yard by box pushing technique including approaches, Execution of slop protection works with soil nailing, construction of Balance FOB works at Chinchli & Kudachi and other miscellaneous works between Londa (Including) (KM 558/300) and Miraj (Excluding) (KM 745/200). **(Tender Ref. No: LD-MRJ-75R)**

2	Request for Proposal	Rs. 24,93,56,460/-

for appointment of Authority Engineer for providing project management services for Construction of New Broad Gauge Line Track Between Kushtagi (excl.) (54.700) and Shahpur (excl.) (210.500) (155.800 Km) Under Gadag - Wadi New Line Project (257 Km) Including Signalling, Telecommunication & Electrical works of Hubballi Division on South Western Railway through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC). **(Tender Ref. No: PMS-GADAG-WADI)**

3	Londa - Vasco	Rs. 118,82,50,492/-

Section : **(1)** Construction of ROB 1x24m Composite Girder (Railway Portion) and 2x15.0m + 2x15.0m RCC Solid slab (Approach Portion) and Subway of 4.0mx3.0m RCC Box at Km. 71/200 in lieu of LC No. 17 between Sanvordem and Chandor Goa Stations. **(2)** Construction of ROB 1x30m Composite Girder (Railway Portion) and 7x23.0m PSC girder & precast CC blocks with Geo-grid (Approach Portion) and service roads on both sides of ROB at Km 80/500-600 in lieu of LC No. 19 between Chandor Goa and Madgao Stations including electrical items. **(3)** Construction of ROB 1x60m Bowstring Girder (Railway Portion) and 12x25.0m PSC Girder & CC blocks with Geo-grid (Approach Portion) and service road on both sides of ROB at Km. 95/500-600 in lieu of LC No. 25 between Majorda and Cansaulim Stations. (Composite Work) **(Tender Ref. No: LD-MRJ-ROB-LC-17-19-25)**

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 19-10-2023 for Sl. No. 1 & 10-11-2023 for Sl. No. 2 & 29-11-2023 for Sl. No. 3
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/420/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

Unravelling the links between consanguinity and genetic diseases

Many genetic concepts were unearthed by studying the intricate tapestry of royal marriages in Europe and the diseases the individuals had. But since the democratisation of genetics and genomics, scientists have been able to study the general population in the same way, on a larger scale

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria

Representative illustration. AREK SOCHA/PIXABAY

THE GIST

Scientists can quantify relatedness between two individuals as a percentage of the genetic material shared between them or by genetic material in stretches of a chromosome that are identical to each other and inherited from parents

Scientists have identified several endogamous populations in India with very high levels of genetic relatedness, and have identified many populations in India with a very high level of inbreeding – some more so than the Ashkenazi Jews

There is some evidence suggesting that ancient populations in which bottlenecks restricted mating choices would have resulted in consanguinity

In the rich tapestry of human ancestry and history, there is one genomic thread that weaves a particularly complex narrative. It connects our lineage through the many generations across our existence on earth, and also defines our genetic vulnerabilities. This thread is none other than consanguinity: the practice of marrying close relatives, an age-old tradition that is still practised widely in several human societies worldwide.

According to one estimate, 15-20% of the world's population practises inbreeding, especially in Asia and West Africa.

Consanguinity has both shaped our cultural landscapes and left an indelible mark on our genetic destiny. It is a social as well as genetic construct. In the social context, it means marriage between individuals related by blood; in the genetic context, it means marriage between genetically related individuals, otherwise called inbreeding.

Using modern genomic tools, scientists can quantify the relatedness between two individuals as a percentage of the genetic material shared between them (identity by state) or by the genetic material in stretches of a chromosome that are identical to each other and are inherited from parents (identity by descent).

The misfortunes of royal marriages

There is evidence to suggest that ancient human civilisations, such as those of the Egyptians and Incas, among others, could have practised inbreeding or consanguinity. In particular, a body of historical and genetic evidence suggests that King Tutankhamun of Egypt was born to parents who were blood relatives.

We are still understanding the genetic and population effects of these practices. So it isn't surprising that many key insights that are biomedically relevant - including discovery of new genes and genetic correlates - have been through the lens of consanguinity. Many genetic concepts were unearthed by studying the intricate tapestry of royal marriages in Europe and the diseases the individuals had. But since the democratisation of genetics and genomics, scientists have been able to study the general population in the same way, on a larger scale.

Scientists have extensively studied the level of inbreeding in various populations around the world. Some of the most well-studied populations in this regard include the Ashkenazi Jews and the Amish. With more than 4,000 endogamous groups - people marrying within the same caste/tribe or group - India has been a fertile ground for consanguinity.

Scientists at the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, in Hyderabad, have also identified several endogamous populations in India with very high levels of genetic relatedness, and have identified many populations in India with a very high level of inbreeding - some more so than the Ashkenazi Jews.

Studies have found that a significant fraction of the global population practises consanguinity and that that has increased the mortality and the rate of recessive genetic diseases in these peoples.

Benefits of consanguinity

While consanguinity is undesirable among humans, scientists widely wield the principle of mating between related offspring to breed plants and animals. With such efforts in experimental settings, they have been able to eliminate deleterious genetic alleles in populations. (Alleles are different versions of the same gene.)

Taking cues from these efforts, it is possible to anticipate evolutionary 'bottleneck' events in the past that could have resulted, similarly, in the removal of deleterious alleles from humans.

There is some evidence suggesting that ancient populations in which bottlenecks restricted mating choices would have resulted in consanguinity. In turn, such evolutionary or natural bottleneck events and consanguinity could have provided a chance to eliminate deleterious alleles while outbreeding would have created opportunities for heterozygotes (individuals with two alleles for a gene) with advantageous traits.

> Consanguinity has both shaped our cultural landscapes and left an indelible mark on our genetic destiny. It is a social as well as genetic construct

This said, precisely how such inbreeding and bottlenecks have contributed to human traits and diseases remains an open question.

Molecular measures of consanguinity

We inherit one copy of each chromosome from our parents. When the gametes - i.e. the reproductive cells - form, the chromosomes recombine. That is, genetic information, as blocks of genomic regions in the chromosomes, are exchanged.

In an event when the parents are related to each other, there is a chance that there will be identical blocks of genetic information in both chromosomes. These blocks are called 'runs of homozygosity', and the subsequent exchange is said to be autozygous.

The percentage of autozygosity in an individual's genome thus creates a unique way to understand the genetic history of the population: in terms of sexual unions between related individuals over many generations. Other measures have also been developed to measure the stretches of chromosomes that are identical to each other. This is in part due to the genome-scale data now available to scientists, with which they can estimate the kinship between any two individuals.

Consanguinity and disease

Many modern consanguineous societies, such as the Amish population in the U.S., have been studied for recessive diseases. In fact, scientists have extensively used autozygosity as an approach to identify new genetic diseases in populations where consanguineous marriage practices are the norm.

The results of these studies have helped us uncover previously unknown genetic diseases as well as estimate different populations' genetic predisposition to common diseases.

At the same time, we are still to uncover the relationship of consanguinity with common yet complex diseases such as type-2 diabetes, obesity, and hypertension. They will have to be investigated in greater detail.

One recent study, published on September 26 this year in the journal *Cell*, suggested that consanguinity could increase the risk and the rate of diseases like type-2 diabetes.

In the coming years, advances in genomics research indicate that we can expect innovative solutions to mitigate the risks associated with consanguinity on genetic diseases.

This in turn could usher in a future where personalised medicine, genetic diagnostics, and genetic counselling can play a pivotal role in improving the health outcomes of affected individuals and their families.

(The authors are senior consultants at the Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation.)

BIG SHOT

A dry channel at Puraquequara Lake in Manaus, Brazil, on Friday. The riverside population has suffered from the lack of water caused by the severe drought in the north of the country. The drought has dried up rivers and made it difficult to travel between cities in the state of Amazonas. Water consumption has also been affected. AFP

WHAT IS IT?

Phonotaxis: First sound, then motion

Arkatapa Basu

The click of crickets in the evening or frogs croaking during the monsoon might sound random or even annoying, but they have a good reason for making these sounds. Scientists call it phonotaxis: the movement by an animal in response to a sound. It has mostly been observed among crickets, moths, frogs, toads, and a few other creatures. There are two types of phonotaxis: positive and negative. The purpose of positive phonotaxis is attraction. It usually happens when the females of a particular species – including those of crickets and frogs – are attracted to the sounds made by the males. Negative phonotaxis, on the other hand, serves to repel or warn, such as when the sound of a predator nearby signals to an animal that it needs to move away. Crickets, in particular, have been found to steer themselves away from low-intensity ultrasound typically associated with bats (which use it for echolocation). In 1984, scientists found that Mediterranean house geckos (*Hemidactylus turcicus*) use positive phonotaxis to their advantage. The fields that these geckos inhabited were also

Crickets use phonotaxis to attract mates. GETTY IMAGES

home to male decorated crickets (*Gryllodes supplicans*), which used species-specific sounds to attract the females from their burrows. The geckos recognised and followed this call until they reached the burrow, where they consumed the female crickets.

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for 'Science', please write to
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Fire at Manmul dairy

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A fire broke out at the dairy of Mandya District Co-operative Milk Producers Society's Union Ltd., popularly known as Manmul, at Gejjalagere in Maddur taluk of Mandya district on Sunday.

No casualties were reported as the personnel present in the building at the time of the outbreak were able to make a hurried exit.

Whitefield-Challaghatta metro service from today

Operations to start at 5 a.m. from terminal stations; Prime Minister to officially inaugurate two sections on Purple Line in two weeks, says Union Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of a metro train passing by ITPL building at Whitefield.

The much-awaited Whitefield-Challaghatta metro corridor (Purple Line) is set to commence passenger services on Monday.

"We wish to inform the public regarding the opening of passenger services on the two sections between Krishnarajapura to Baiyappanahalli, a distance of 2.10 km with one station in between at Benniganahalli and the other beyond Kengeri to Challaghatta a distance of 2.05 km with effect from 09 October," Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) said in a statement on Sunday. With the opening of these two vital sections, the entire east-west corridor (Purple Line) from Whitefield (Kadugodi) to Challaghatta will be complete with a total length of 43.49 km and 37 stations.

The inauguration of these two metro stretches, much awaited for some time now, has taken a political colour now.

As the State government had written to the Union government seeking clearance to inaugurate these stretches on October 5, in a surprise move the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) responded on Sunday, saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate these stretches to the nation formally in two weeks and directed officials to start passenger operations immediately. This follows repeated demands by Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya to open these stretches for passengers. The ruling Congress had planned a big inaugural event, which will now be headlined by Mr. Modi.

"These two sections are vital from the perspective of commuters in Bengaluru.... In view of the above, these two sections of the metro lines should be opened for passenger service immediately on the morning of October 9, 2023, without any formal or informal official function...," the letter from MoHUA stated. The Commissioner for Metro Rail Safety approved the Byappanahalli-K.R. Pura section on September 25 and granted clearance for Kengeri-Challaghatta on September 30.

Frequency and fare

According to the BMRCL, the metro journey from Challaghatta to Whitefield is expected to last approximately 76 minutes, with a fixed end-to-end fare of ₹60. The BMRCL also stated in their release that the service frequency for the Whitefield (Kadugodi) - Pattandur Agrahara section will be 10 minutes and 5 minutes on the Pattandur Agrahara - Mysuru Road section. During the morning peak hours, the frequency at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station, Majestic, - M.G. Road section will be every three minutes, and between Mysuru Road and Challaghatta, it will be 10 minutes. The last train from Whitefield (Kadugodi) shall depart at 10.45 p.m. and from rest of the terminal stations at 11.05 p.m. while the revenue services will start at 5 a.m. from all the terminal stations.

Attibele tragedy: It was a Herculean task to even gain access to the godown, say firefighter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tough task: Fire Services personnel used an excavator to break open the roof and partitions constructed within the godown to gain access. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Over 150 firefighters battled the raging blaze at the cracker godown at Attibele for over 15 hours and recovered all the bodies that lay severely charred and some even buried under the debris on Saturday.

The Fire and Emergency Services control room got a call about the fire at 3.30 p.m., without any information about the kind of shop. It was only after a fire tender rushed to the spot, delayed by heavy Saturday traffic on Hosur Road, that the personnel realised it was a firecracker godown of over 6,000 sq. ft with over one tonne of firecrackers stored. Soon, 10 fire tenders and a rescue van rushed to the spot and joined firefighting and rescue operations.

"It was a very challenging operation as thick poisonous smoke of sulphur and phosphorus was bellowing out and the godown was unscientifically built with no good access. A liquor store stands right next to it, posing even more risk. But human efforts aided with technology helped us put out the fire," said Kamal Pant, DGP, Fire and Emergency Services.

The lorry from which employees of the shop were unloading crackers when the fire started was up in flames and blocked access to the godown. Firemen had to put out the fire in the lorry to get to the godown – probably precious time was lost before help could reach those who were trapped inside. A firefighter said they had information that there were 30 people working inside when the fire broke out and six, including a few women, escaped from the backdoor and a few were trapped inside.

But even after the fire outside was put out in two hours, reaching the badly constructed godown was a Herculean task. Finally, Fire Services personnel brought an excavator and broke open the roof and unscientifically constructed partitions within the godown to gain access, Shivashankar, Director (Technical), Fire and Emergency Services, said.

A team led by Yunus Kousar, Deputy Director, Fire and Emergency Services, recovered 12 bodies by 10 p.m. Two other bodies buried under the debris were recovered in the small hours of Saturday night.

"It was a horrible scene inside the building as those who were charred to death were sitting in the middle of the godown to pack cracker boxes. Due to the fire and thick smoke, the other material fell on them and they were trapped under the debris, unable to get out," a firefighter said.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, OCT. 09	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:05
RISE 01:47	SET 14:51
TUESDAY, OCT. 10	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:04
RISE 02:36	SET 15:30
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:03
RISE 03:24	SET 16:06

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	25
Mysuru	32	23
Bengaluru	30	22

Bengaluru Today
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm and humid. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Chances of moderate rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated October 9, we take a look at how the increasing adoption of electric vehicles, and the rising number of smartphones, laptops, and other consumer electronics have boosted the demand for Lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery market in India, along with the need for an organised battery recycling industry.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (October 09, Monday), the following explainers are available:

- What caused the flood in Sikkim? **bit.ly/sikkimfloods**
- Unravelling the links between consanguinity and genetic diseases **bit.ly/humanlineage**

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of gold medals won by China in the Asian games

201 China surpassed their previous record of 199 gold medals, which was set in Guangzhou in 2010. India won an unprecedented 107 medals, including 28 gold. With about 12,000 athletes, this was the biggest Asian Games in history. AFP

The people who died in the Afghanistan earthquake

2,060 In one of the deadliest earthquakes the country has faced in the last two decades, 1,240 people were injured and 1,320 houses destroyed. The earthquake was followed by strong aftershocks. PTI

Innings taken by David Warner to reach 1,000 World Cup runs

19 Australia opener David Warner snatched Sachin Tendulkar's record for the fastest player to reach 1,000 World Cup runs during the clash against India. Tendulkar and former South Africa skipper AB de Villiers got the runs in 20 outings. PTI

The number of IPOs to hit the street in the second half of FY24

28 After a record 31 initial share sales in the first half of this fiscal, the IPO pipeline has 28 firms eyeing to raise ₹38,000 crore in the second half and another 41 awaiting SEBI's nod to launch initial public offerings worth ₹44,000 crore. PTI

The amount Foreign Portfolio Investors sold in October

8,000 in ₹ crore. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) dumped Indian equities on the back of dollar appreciation and the steady rise in U.S. bond yields. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What caused the flood in Sikkim?

What are Glacier Lake Outburst Floods? How do infrastructure projects like the Chungthang dam affect the fragile ecosystem of the Himalayas? Can such events be predicted and prevented? What damage has the flood done in the State?

EXPLAINER

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:
More than 25 people have been confirmed dead, and many more are missing from a massive flood that resulted from a glacier-lake outburst in Sikkim in the early hours of October 4. The voluminous outflow has destroyed the Chungthang dam, which is critical to the Teesta 3 hydropower project, and rendered several hydropower projects along the river dysfunctional.

What is a glacier lake outburst?
Technically called a Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), these are instances of large lakes formed from the melting of glaciers, suddenly breaking free of their moraine – natural dams that are formed from rock, sediment and other debris.

The South Lhonak glacier, located in north Sikkim, is reportedly one of the fastest retreating glaciers. The glacier receded nearly two km in 46 years from 1962 to 2008. It further retreated by ~400 m from 2008 to 2019. There are an estimated 7,500 glaciers in the Himalayas and GLOFs have been associated with major disasters through the years.

A report in the journal *Nature* counts the 1926 Jammu and Kashmir deluge, the 1981 Kinnaur valley floods in Himachal Pradesh and the 2013 Kedarnath outburst in Uttarakhand as examples of GLOF related disasters. Among the Himalayan States in India, Sikkim has about 80 glaciers more than any other State. Over the years climatologists have warned that they could be responsible for lake outbursts.

What triggered the Sikkim GLOF event?
There is uncertainty on this point. Satellite images from the National Remote Sensing Centre, Indian Space Research Organisation suggest around 105 hectares (about 1 square km) of the glacier-fed lake had been drained out. This was on comparing images taken on September 28, when the lake spanned 167 ha and on October 4, the night of the disaster, when it shrunk to 62 ha. On September 17, it was 162 ha. As satellite images don't reveal the depth of the lake, calculating the volume of water in the lake is challenging without physically visiting the place, according to Kalachand Sain, Director, DST-Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology. However, water-monitoring apparatus maintained by the Central Water Commission (CWC) reports that water levels surged nearly 60 feet above the maximum levels at Sangkalang at 1:30 pm and gushed at nearly 55 kmph. This is, at the very least, thousands of cubic metres of water in a short time and being midnight, gave very little lead time for people downstream to react.

The National Disaster Management Agency reports that "...the primary reason for the sudden surge appears to be a likely combination of excess rainfall and a GLOF event. The lake is at a height of 5,200 metres with a towering ice-capped feature at about 6,800 metres to the north of and in close proximity to the lake." There is speculation that heavy rainfall might have tipped the moraine to collapse and trigger the flood but meteorological records don't reveal any evidence of such heavy rain. "There was heavy rain in south Sikkim but nothing remarkable in the northern region," M. Mohapatra, Director General, India Meteorological Department (IMD) told *The Hindu*. "But on the other hand, we don't really know. At such a height there is no monitoring of rainfall."

There is also a suggestion that a series of earthquakes in Nepal on October 3, in the afternoon (whose tremors jolted several in the Delhi National Capital Region) might have played a role. "There were two tremors in the afternoon and aftershocks until at about 9 pm on the 3rd. The distance (until Lhonak lake) is about 700 km and so it's theoretically possible that this could be a trigger," said Mr. Sain. "But without a deeper study it is all speculation."

The inaccessibility of the terrain makes ground observations that provide conclusive proof difficult, he added.

What was the resulting damage?
The most visible consequence of the flooding was the destruction of the Chungthang dam. Though not a storage dam it directs water to power the Teesta 3 hydropower project. The executive chairman of Sikkim Urja, which runs the project, is quoted as saying the dam was "washed away in 10 mins." Senior officials in the CWC say that the dam is significantly damaged and the quantity of silt and water present made it difficult to estimate the extent of damage.

On Thursday, Pankaj Agrawal, Secretary, Ministry of Power, convened an "emergency meeting" to ascertain damage to projects operated by the National Hydropower Corporation (NHPC). All bridges downstream to the Teesta-V hydropower station were submerged or washed out, disrupting communication. "The floodwater overtopped the dam of the Teesta V power station [510 MW]. All connecting roads to the project sites as well as parts of the residential colony have been severely damaged," the Power Ministry said in a statement, "Presently the power station is shut and not generating any electricity." The Teesta 3 power project is not operated by the NHPC.

One NHPC employee at the Teesta V power station lost his life. All of the organisation's other personnel at the site were safe. Works on the under-construction Teesta VI (500 MW) of the NHPC were disrupted with water entering into the powerhouse and transformer cavern. Dams and hydropower projects in downstream West Bengal were not significantly affected but were kept shut from heavy siltation that resulted from the floodwaters.

The State government has set up 26 relief camps in the four affected districts, the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) said on Thursday, with at least 1,025 people taking shelter in the eight relief camps in Gangtok district.

The flood destroyed 11 bridges in the State, with eight bridges getting washed away in the Mangan district alone. Two bridges were destroyed in Namchi and one in Gangtok.

Water pipelines, sewage lines and 277 houses have been destroyed in the four most affected districts of Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong and Namchi.

Are such events likely in the future?
Several studies have over the years warned of the risk from GLOF events from the Himalayas.

"Both the frequency and severity of such events are going to increase exponentially in the future. The Himalayan ecosystem is the most fragile in the world and any disruption in the way we are managing these resources will have a problematic outcome for the people of the region. Rising temperatures are leading to a wetter future and contributing to climate change led extreme events, but it is also disturbing the fragility of the Himalayan ecosystem through hydropower and other dams. GLOF is an outcome of warming of the region and this has been a major risk for the region. Once it is formed, you never know what triggers its outburst. Sikkim is an example of this," said Anjal Prakash, IPCC author and with the Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business.

While the Teesta river is a source of hydropower generation for several power projects, the risk of GLOF like events requires greater care in planning and executing dam and other infrastructure projects, which account for the huge amount of water that can potentially gush through the mountains.

Early warning systems are implementable, said Dr. Saini but require a coordinated approach such as multiple agencies promptly sharing satellite images (that are trained towards the Himalayas) and a network of sensors to provide adequate warning. "Unlike an earthquake, that is relatively sudden, GLOF events can be anticipated as we can monitor changes in the size of lakes. But this requires greater coordination."

Heavy loss: Vehicles that got washed away in the flood lie on the sand as machinery is being used to clean mud and sand near the buildings along the Teesta river in Rongpo, Sikkim on October 8. AP

THE GIST

- More than 25 people have been confirmed dead from a massive flood that resulted from a glacier-lake outburst in Sikkim in the early hours of October 4.
- Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) are instances of large lakes formed from the melting of glaciers, suddenly breaking free of their moraine — natural dams that are formed from rock, sediment and other debris.
- Water pipelines, sewage lines and 277 houses have been destroyed in the four most affected districts of Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong and Namchi.

Researchers find high rate of paediatric tuberculosis infection in household contacts of index patients

While 50% of 686 children (below 15 years) examined in the study were found to be infected, the infection had developed into disease in 3%. Nearly 80% of these cases occurred in the 6-15 age group

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A study by researchers from Kasturba Medical College (KMC), Manipal, ESIC Medical College and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Rajajinagar, and State Tuberculosis (TB) division in Bengaluru and Udupi districts has found high rates of paediatric TB infection among household contacts of TB patients.

While 50% of the 686 children (below 15 years) examined in the study were found to be infected, the infection had developed into the disease in 3%. Nearly 80% of these cases occurred in the 6-15 age group. The study titled "TB screening for paediatric household contacts in India: Time to adapt newer strategies under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP)" was published in *PLOS ONE*, an open access journal, on October 5.

Led by Kiran Chawla from KMC and Sharath B.N. from ESIC, the study is aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of screening paediatric household contacts (under the age of 15 years) for TB through verbal screening, tuberculin skin testing (TST) and chest radiography at intervals of 0, 3, 6, 9, and 12 months.

The study was funded by the Central TB Division, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

NTEP guidelines

"The current NTEP guidelines only require verbal screening for contacts under six-years-old at TB treatment initiation. The study aimed to fill this knowledge gap and provide valuable insights for improving TB screening in paediatric household contacts in India," said Dr. Sharath.

Conducted from January 2021 to December 2022, the research utilised a cohort study design to enrol contacts of index TB cases diagnosed under NTEP.

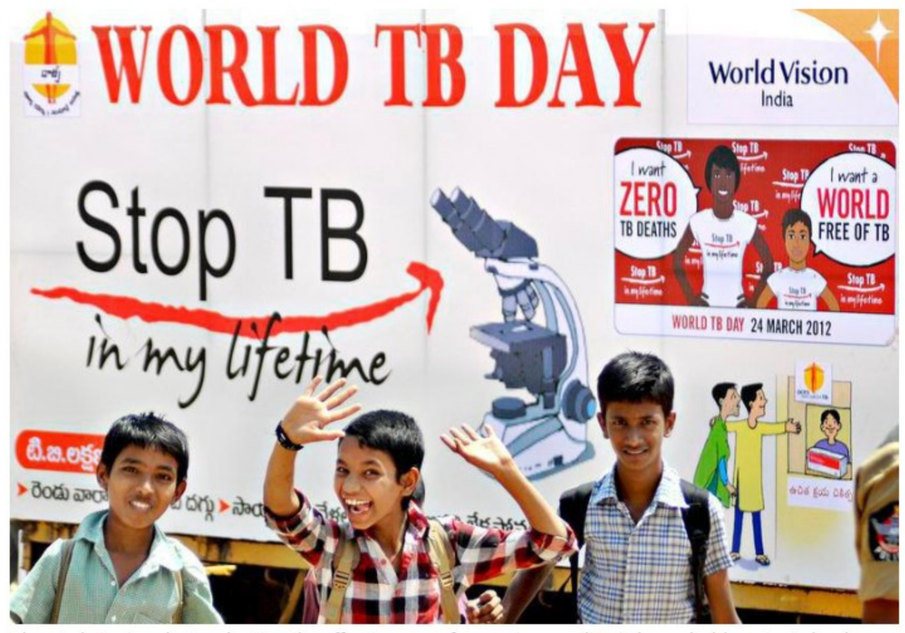
Dr. Chawla said the COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges to regular follow-up screenings, making it difficult to assess and treat potential cases in a timely manner. "A substantial number of parents did not subject their children to screening due to the absence of visible symptoms, highlighting the importance of multiple screenings. The study recommends a revision of the screening policy for household contacts, advocating for at least three screenings a year involving symptom screening, chest radiography, and TST or other non-invasive tests," she said.

"The study reveals significant hurdles, especially when it comes to paediatric cases," the doctor said.

Gender disparities

Another author Suresh Shastri, State Programme Officer (Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka), who was then Senior Specialist in the State TB division, said females above six years of age were found to be at a 22% more risk of contracting TB compared to males in the same age group.

"This research serves as a clarion call to re-evaluate existing screening policies and prioritise early detection and treatment of paediatric TB cases," the study pointed out.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WORLD TB DAY 24 MARCH 2012
The study is aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of screening paediatric household contacts (under the age of 15) for TB through verbal screening, tuberculin skin testing and chest radiography. FILE PHOTO

Kumaraswamy endorses Shamanur's views on postings to Lingayat officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The debate over postings for officials belonging to Veerashaiva/Lingayat community continued on Sunday with former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy coming in support of veteran Congress leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa.

"Mr. Shivashankarappa has been bold in expressing his opinion. It is not important to say that Veerashaiva Lingayats have been given postings, but it is important what positions have been given to them," the former Chief Minister told presspersons at Bidadi on Sunday.

Wading into the controversy that has had its impact on the Congress already, he said: "What is the use if officials from the community are posted to useless posts. It is important to know which official has got which post."

He said that he was aware of the situation of officials belonging to other communities. "There is dissatisfaction among officials and this will explode during (parliamentary) elections," he said.

Earlier, addressing party leaders and workers from Ramanagara district where he outlined the contours of the party's alliance with BJP, Mr. Kumaraswamy blamed Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for bringing down his government in 2019, and said that he fell victim to the Belagavi politics.

"The 2019 government fell because of Mr. Sivakumar and not me. I became a scapegoat. Otherwise, Ramesh Jarkiholi and I did not have any problems. Why did he (Mr. Shivakumar) interfere in Belagavi politics? Today, he (Mr. Shivakumar) is shedding crocodile tears," Mr. Kumaraswamy told his partymen from Ramanagara district on Sunday.

"I trusted him but he deserted me. This led to consequences on party workers too. It is my responsibility to set the situation right."

Referring to the 2019 parliamentary elections, he said: "If we had not followed the dharma of alliance, he (Bengaluru Rural MP D.K. Suresh) would not have been elected. They committed fraud on Nikhil in Mandya."

Urging the party men to work for the JD(S)-BJP alliance candidate, he said: "Let us support whoever becomes the alliance candidate. We should ensure our candidate wins with a margin of 3 lakh votes."

The former Chief Minister predicted that the current Congress government would fall in 2024, and that there would be fresh Assembly elections.

"It is doubtful whether that person (Mr. Shivakumar) will contest in the election," he said.

Tête-à-tête

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda came face to face at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Sunday. They exchanged pleasantries and discussed the political scenario. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CM likely to discuss caste census issue with Congress high command

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who will be in Delhi to attend the All India Congress Committee CWC meeting, is expected to discuss the issue of Caste Census that has gripped the political narrative in the State after Bihar released its own recently.

Congress sources said that while Mr. Siddaramaiah is attending the meeting mainly to discuss preparation for the ensuing polls to the Assemblies of the five States, he is expected to be part of the discussion on caste census. Mr. Siddaramaiah's presence in the meeting is being seen in the light of a considerable number of Kuruba population in Telangana State, which is going for polls shortly while KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar has been given in charge of Telangana poll campaign.

The Chief Minister, incidentally, has already announced that he would accept the caste census report stating that it will help planning delivery of services better.

This despite the Vokkaliga and Veerashaiva/Lingayat caste groups being opposed to the release of census data.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Targeting Gandhi on social media

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil were at the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations at Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru, where several people appealed for action against those who spread defamatory messages about the Mahatma on social media platforms.

As if to provide instant proof on this increasing phenomenon, even as the function was on, Wooday P. Krishna, chairman of Gandhi Bhavan, received one such message, which he promptly showed Mr. Patil who was sitting right next to him.

This seemed to spur Mr. Patil into immediate action. "What must they be thinking, sending such messages to the chairman of Gandhi Bhavan on Gandhi Jayanti day?" the Minister asked in utter disbelief, as he addressed the gathering minutes later.

He went on to promise that the State government will discuss and decide on framing a law which will bring legal action against those who spread defamatory messages and misinformation about Gandhi.

It's now BJP vs Somashekar

Former BJP Minister and MLA S.T. Somashekar *(in picture)* is upset over the saffron party's alliance with the JD(S) ahead of the general elections. The Yeshwantpur MLA, who has been sulking since the BJP's defeat in the Assembly polls, contended that he had fought against the JD(S) for two decades in his constituency, and his supporters have faced harassment at the hands of the JD(S).

Irked over Mr. Somashekar's public statement on the alliance, former Ministers C.N. Ashwath Narayan, C.T. Ravi, Kota Srinivas Poojary and R. Ashok hit out at the MLA and said he should have expressed his comments in the party forums and not before the TV cameras. In the recent past, Mr. Somashekar's supporters have joined the Congress. The MLA who met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar on a few occasions, too seems to be knocking the door of the Congress.

A lesson learnt in Karnataka?

The BJP seems to have learnt a bitter lesson in Karnataka. The party, which announced its candidates a few days before the last day of filing nomination papers for contesting the Karnataka Legislative Assembly elections earlier this year, has already announced its candidates for elections to Madhya Pradesh. The Election Commission of India has not yet not announced the calendar of events to Madhya Pradesh and other poll-bound States in the Hindi heartland. But the party has fielded seven sitting Lok Sabha members, three of them Union Ministers, and one national general secretary, in elections to the Madhya Pradesh Assembly. It's interesting to see how the party's strategy works in Madhya Pradesh before the 2024 general elections.

Jahnavi T.R.
Nagesh Prabhu

Emergency helpline for those stuck in Israel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has set up an emergency helpline to assist those hailing from Karnataka stuck in Israel. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday announced on X that those in need of assistance can reach out to Karnataka State Emergency Operation helpline 080-22340676/ 080-22253707. He also said that MEA India helpline number 97235226748 could also be contacted.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH

S. LAKSHMANAN (81)
Retired Chief (IT), LIC
Passed away peacefully at 9.25am on 08.10.2023
Last Rites at his Residence Bangalore on 09.10.2023 by 1 pm
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Wife, Son, Daughter-in-Law & Grandchildren
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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
(ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
PROBATE CIVIL PETITION NO: 16 OF 2023
In the matter of the Last Will and Testament of MRS. LIRA (also spelt LYRA) MARIA LOBO also known as MRS. LYRA LOBO: Deceased:
1. Mr. Joseph Mario Peter Lobo, also known as J.M.P. Lobo, aged about 75 years,
2. Mr. Anthony Melville Vincent Lobo, also known as Anthony Melvile Vincent Lobo, aged about 72 years,
Both sons of Mrs. Lira Maria Lobo, deceased and residing at No.1, Da Costa Square, St. Mary's Town, Bengaluru - 560 084. ...PETITIONERS
-vs-
Nil ...RESPONDENT
Whereas the Petitioners above named have made a Petition under Sections (270, 273 and 276) of the Indian Succession Act 1925, for grant of Probate of the Will dated 2nd October 1994, Annexed to their Petition, said to have been executed by the deceased Mrs Lira (also spelt Lyra) Maria Lobo also known as Mrs. Lyra Lobo, then residing at No.1, Da Costa Square, St. Mary's Town, St. Thomas Town Post, Bengaluru.
Be it known that no caveat has been entered and that the said Petition is posted for hearing on the 6/11/2023 and all persons claiming to have any interest in the Estate of the Deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Probate.
GIVEN under my hand and the seal of this Court, this the 23rd day of August 2023 and 26th day of September 2023.
By Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, Assistant Registrar, High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
Counsel for the Petitioner.
Mr. K.T. Sebastian & Ms. Ann Mary Green No. 20, Lavelle Road, 3rd Cross, BENGALURU 560 001.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, KENASPARBU Johnwesly, S/o Johnwesly, R/at Flat No.309,G Flr, Sri Venkateshwara, 4th Cross, Shanbhog Colony, Yemaluru Main Road, Bengaluru-560037, have changed my name from Kenasparbu Johnwesly to Kenasprabu Johnwesly vide affidavit dated 06-10-2023 before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

I, ROOPASHRI Vinayak Naik, W/o Vinayak Honnayya Naik, R/at No.212, Buddajyothi Layout, Chikkabidarakallu, Nagasandra, Bengaluru-560073, have changed my name from Roopashri Vinayak Naik to Roopashri Naik vide affidavit dated 06-10-2023 before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

I, SHASHIKANTH, S/o Balajirao, R/at No.4, BVSS Maratha Students Home, Bull Temple Road, Shankarapuram, Bangalore-560004, have changed my name from Shashikanth to Shashikanth Rao vide affidavit dated 07-10-2023 before Notary Bhagya Kumari, Bangalore.

I, LOKESH Reddy, S/o C.Rama Reddy, R/at No.4, TPV Layout, 1st Main Road, Anandnagar, R.T.Nagar, Bangalore-560024, have changed my name from Lokesh Reddy to C.R. Lokesh Reddy vide affidavit dated 06-10-2023 before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

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OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER P.W.D. ZONE TONK
No. 3414-3424 Dated : 29.09.2023
Short Terms Notice Inviting Bid 34/2023-24
02 No. Bids for Construction of Various Road for the Budget Declaration Year 2023-24, Zone Tonk (Provision of Defect liabilty period is 5 Years) are invited from interested bidders upto 09-10-2023 Time 6.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state; and Public Works department Rajasthan website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 3010.80 Lacs.
NIB Code : PWD2324A3570 UBN is: PWD2324WLOB15749, UBN is: PWD2324WLOB15750
(R.N. Bairwa) Addl. Chief Engineer P.W.D., Zone, Tonk.
DIPR/C/15312/23

मुख्यमंत्री निःशुल्क दवा योजना
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CIN:U24232RJ2011SGC035067 E-mail : edpssrmsc@rajasthan.gon.in, edprmsc@nic.in
F.02(156)/RMSCL/Proc./S&S (MD)/NIB-18/2023/3545 Dated:- 06.10.2023
Notice Inviting E-Bids
E-bids for rate contract cum empanelment for supply of following items under SURGICALS AND SUTURE (DRUG ITEMS), DRUGS & MEDICINES are invited from eligible bidders:-

	Item Name / Description	Ref. No	UBN	Estimated Value in Rs.	LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF ONLINE BIDS
1.	SURGICALS AND SUTURE (DRUG ITEMS)	F.02(156)/RMSCL/Proc./S&S (MD)/NIB-18/2023/3545 Dated:- 06.10.2023	MSC2324 GLOB00105	27.79 Cr	26.10.2023 at 06:00 PM
2.	DRUGS & MEDICINES	F.02(388)/RMSCL/PROCUREMENT/DRUG/NIPQ-06/2023/2008 Dated:-06.10.2023	MSC2324 GSOB00103	-	07.11.2023 at 06:00 PM

Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in and may be downloaded from there.
Executive Director (Procurement) RMSCL
Samwad/C/23/11211

Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage and Infrastructure Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Old Working Women Hostel, Behind Nehru Place, Lalkothi, Tonk Road, Jaipur
Ph: 0141-2742240 E-mail: ruifdco@gmail.com Web: urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rudsico
F18 (139) RUDSICO/Tender/2023-24/9499 Date:06/10/2023
NIB No. 13/2023-24
Notice inviting online bids for Storm Water Drainage Works (Budget Ghoshna 2023-24)
Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage & infrastructure Corporation Limited (RUDSICO),a Government of Rajasthan undertaking, invites online unconditional bids on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan throughe-procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from eligible bidders in accordance with the RTPP Act 2012 and RTPP Rules 2013, amended up to date, and under Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) National with single stage-two envelope Bidding procedure for following works.

S. No.	Name of Towns	Cost (In Cr)	Bid Security (In Cr)	Period of completion
1	Balotra	34.66	0.69	24 Months
2	Sujangarh	20.04	0.48	

The details of NIB can be seen at e-procurement portal of state government sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from date 06.10.2023 at 1700 Hours till the end date of online submission of bids i.e. 06.11.2023 up to 1800 Hours. Any subsequent addendum/corrigendum shall be published only at the e-procurement portal.
NIB no. RDP2324A0047
UBN No. RDP2324WLOB00108 (Balotra), RDP2324WLOB00109 (Sujangarh)
Executive Director RUDSICO, Jaipur
Raj.Samvad/C/23/11208

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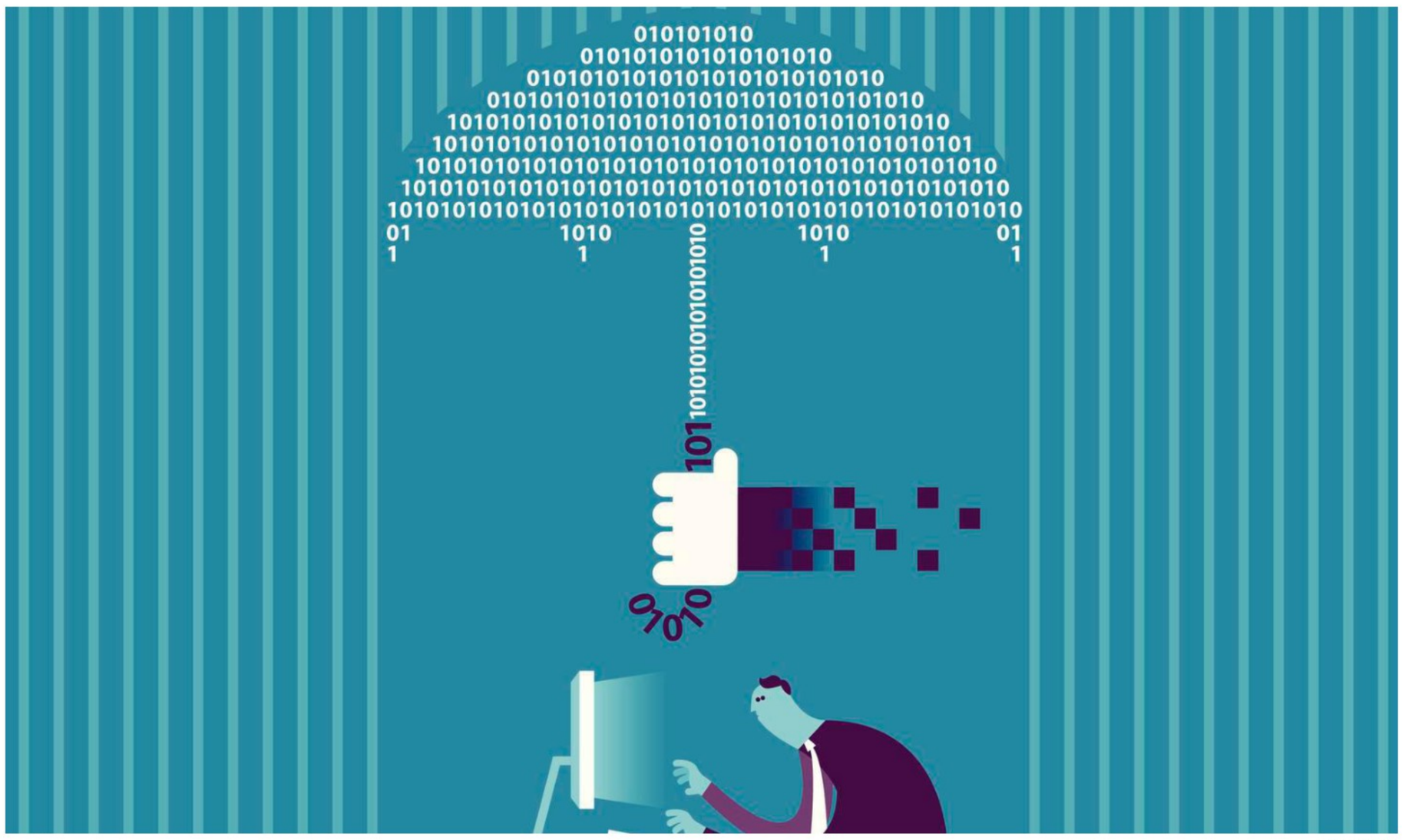


GETTY IMAGES

How the Digital India Act will shape the future of the country's cyber landscape

The proposed DIA encompasses several pivotal clauses that mirror the dynamic evolution of the digital environment, addressing its multifaceted challenges and opportunities. These provisions underscore the legislation's responsiveness to the ever-changing digital ecosystem

Sanhita Chauriha

Nations worldwide are grappling with the need to update their legal frameworks to adapt to the evolving digital landscape. India, with its ambitious 'Digital India' initiative, is no exception. The recent announcement of the Digital India Act 2023 (DIA) represents a significant step towards establishing a future-ready legal framework for the country's burgeoning digital ecosystem. This move by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) signals a proactive approach to regulating and shaping the digital future of the nation.

Moving with the times

The DIA, poised to replace the two-decade-old Information Technology Act of 2000 (IT Act), is designed to address the challenges and opportunities presented by the dramatic growth of the internet and emerging technologies. It is imperative to understand the key aspects of this legislation and why it is essential in the contemporary context.

The primary motivation behind the DIA is to bring India's regulatory landscape in sync with the digital revolution of the 21st century. The IT Act of 2000, crafted during a time when the internet was in its infancy, has struggled to keep pace with the rapid changes in technology and user behaviour. Since its inception, India's internet user base has exploded from a mere 5.5 million to a staggering 850 million. The nature of internet usage has also evolved, with the emergence of various intermediaries and the proliferation of new forms of user harm, such as cyberstalking, trolling, and doxing. The DIA recognises these changes and aims to provide a comprehensive legal framework to address them.

Key provisions

The DIA encompasses several pivotal clauses that mirror the dynamic evolution of the digital environment, addressing its multifaceted challenges and opportunities. These provisions underscore the legislation's responsiveness to the ever-changing digital landscape.

The proposed DIA encompasses a spectrum of significant provisions aimed at addressing the ever-evolving digital landscape. Firstly, it places a strong emphasis on online safety and trust, with a commitment to safeguarding citizen's rights in the digital realm while remaining adaptable to shifting market dynamics and international legal principles.

Secondly, recognising the growing importance of new-age technologies such as artificial intelligence and blockchain, the DIA provides guidelines for their responsible utilisation. Through this, it aims to not only encourage the adoption of these technologies but also to ensure that their deployment is in line with ethical and legal principles. This means that the DIA does not just leave it to the market to dictate the course of these technologies but actively engages in shaping their development and use within a regulatory framework. And by doing so, the DIA strikes a balance between fostering innovation and safeguarding against potential harms. It promotes ethical AI practices, data privacy in blockchain applications, and mechanisms for accountability in the use of these technologies.

This forward-looking stance is not only beneficial for citizens and businesses but also positions India as a responsible player in the global technology landscape, ready to harness the full potential of new-age technologies while mitigating associated risks.

Thirdly, it upholds the concept of an open internet, striking a balance between accessibility and necessary regulations to maintain order and protect users. Additionally, the DIA mandates stringent Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements for wearable devices, accompanied by criminal law sanctions.

Lastly, it contemplates a review of the "safe harbour" principle, which presently shields online platforms from liability related to user-generated content, indicating a potential shift in online accountability standards. These provisions underscore the proposed DIA's commitment in addressing the complexities of the digital age.

The myriad challenges

While the introduction of the DIA is a commendable step towards addressing the challenges of the digital age, there are certain aspects that warrant a critical evaluation.

One key concern is the potential impact on innovation and the ease of doing business. Stricter regulations, particularly in emerging technologies, could inadvertently stifle entrepreneurial initiatives and deter foreign investments. Additionally, the review of the "safe harbour" principle, which shields online platforms from liability for user-generated content, could lead to a more cautious approach among these platforms, possibly impinging on freedom of expression. Furthermore, the DIA's success hinges on effective enforcement, which will require substantial resources, expertise, and infrastructure. Balancing the interests of various stakeholders, including tech giants, while ensuring the protection of citizen rights, poses a significant challenge. Therefore, while the DIA is a progressive move, its implementation and potential repercussions warrant vigilant monitoring and adaptability to avoid unintended consequences.

The DIA is a crucial step towards ensuring a secure, accountable, and innovative digital future for India. It represents a forward-looking approach to regulation in an age of constant change and has the potential to shape the country's digital landscape for generations to come. As consultations continue, it will be interesting to see how this proposed legislation evolves and plays out in the dynamic digital arena.

Sanhita works in the Applied Law and Technology Vertical of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Here is a quiz on political leaders from the five States — Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Telangana — that are set to go to polls later this year

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

A freedom fighter, he later on became the Chief Minister of Rajasthan and continues to hold the record for the longest tenure in that post in the State. Name him.

QUESTION 2

This person had also participated in the freedom struggle, and holds the record for the most lopsided electoral victory — a margin of over 5.8 lakh votes — in Nandyal Lok Sabha constituency in 1991. He served this constituency as an MLA from 1957 to 1978, which is now held by Congress MLA D. Sridhar Babu. Name this prominent person.

QUESTION 3

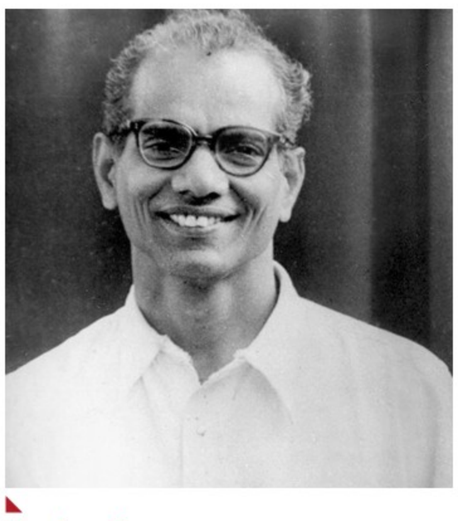
A popular labour organiser, who worked with iron ore mine workers among others, this person was assassinated in September 1991 when he was just 48 years old. He was instrumental in leading anti-liquor struggles, helping build hospitals and health centres for workers and setting up of an independent labour union — the Chhattisgarh Mines Shramik Sangh. Name him.

QUESTION 4

A prominent lawyer during the freedom struggle who defended the accused in the infamous Meerut conspiracy case in 1933 and later, in the Indian National Army trials, this person went on to become the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh in the late 1950s after serving as the Union Home Minister earlier. Name him.

QUESTION 5

An officer in the Indian Army and a recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and later the Padma Shri, this person served one term as the Chief Minister of Mizoram. Name him.



Visual question:
Name this person who was a key leader in the Telangana movement against the feudal rule of the Nizam.

Questions and Answers to the October 6 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The year in which the first World Cup was hosted by this country. **Ans: 1975, England**
2. This country has won the cup the maximum number of times. **Ans: Australia, five times**
3. This non-full-member team's performance has been termed the best. **Ans: Kenya**
4. The name by which the first three tournaments were known. **Ans: The Prudential Cup**
5. In the first tournament, this country was banned due to this reason. **Ans: South Africa was banned from international cricket due to apartheid.**
6. The year in which the tournament's overs per innings was reduced from 60 to 50. **Ans: The overs were reduced in 1987 because of shorter daylight hours in the Indian subcontinent**
7. This country became the first to win the World Cup final on home soil. **Ans: India. This was also the first time that two Asian teams appeared in the final.**
Visual: Identify these mascots. **Ans: The mascots are Tonk and Blaze. They symbolise gender quality.**
Early Birds: Ishu Rani| Jithin K. John| Debarati Kar| Dweej Bajirao Shinde| Sumit Dubey

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Just sit tight while I finish this project

If you don't have any work to do, you can take a siesta during that time in the break room

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of the expression 'sit tight'? (R. Jagadeeshan, Vizag)
This slang expression has several different meanings. When you tell someone to 'sit tight', what you are asking them to do is remain patient; to stay in one place and not move.

No, no, don't leave. I'm almost there. Just sit tight, I'll be there in a minute.

When you ask someone to 'sit tight', you are requesting them not to change their mind about something.

Your father is right. Let's just sit tight and see what offer they come up with.

According to some scholars, the expression is based on how birds react when they spot a predator. Many of them stay still; they don't make a sound.

What is the difference between a 'chronic problem' and an 'acute problem'? (K. Laxmi, Kochi)
The word 'chronic' comes from the Greek 'khronikos' meaning 'of time'. A 'chronic problem' is one that lasts or continues for a long time. For example, if you have a 'chronic back problem', the pain is something you experience every day. The degree or the intensity of the pain may vary day to day, but it is always there; it is not temporary. There is no getting away from it.

In most villages in India, there is a chronic shortage of teachers.

An 'acute problem', on the other hand, is a severe or intense problem. But unlike a 'chronic problem' which continues for a long time, an 'acute problem' is usually short lived – it does not last for a long time. It is temporary.

Whenever the monsoon fails, we have an acute shortage of water during summer.

How is the word 'siesta' pronounced? (R. Bhavna, Kanpur)
The 'i' in the first syllable sounds like the 'i' in 'pit', 'bit' and 'lit'; the following 'es' is pronounced like the 'es' in 'pest', 'best' and 'test'. The final 'a' sounds like the 'a' in 'china'. This word of Spanish origin is pronounced si-ES-te, with the stress on the second syllable. In some countries, during the hot afternoons, many people choose not to work – they choose to take a nap, instead. This afternoon nap that people take is called 'siesta'. The duration of a siesta can vary between a few minutes to a few hours. People in Spain and Italy are quite fond of their siesta; it is an important part of their culture. The difference between a 'siesta' and a 'nap' is that one can take a nap any time of day – morning, afternoon and evening. A siesta happens only in the afternoon. The word 'siesta' comes from the Latin 'sexta' meaning 'sixth'; the Romans used the expression 'sexta hora' to refer to the 'sixth hour' after sunrise – which in their case was noon.

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Tousle:
disarrange or rumple

Synonyms: dishevel, tangle

Usage: *The strong wind tousled my hair.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/touslepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈtaʊ.zəl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Li-ion battery recycling: Booming market with a reverse logistics challenge

The demand for Li-ion batteries has also brought to the fore the need for an organised battery recycling industry. Li-ion recycling is still in its nascent stages in India and has gaps to be fixed

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The increasing adoption of electric vehicles, the rising number of smartphones, laptops, and other consumer electronics, and the growing need for eco-friendly energy storage solutions have been driving the Lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery market in India. Estimated at $2.5 billion in 2023, it is expected to cross $5 billion in the next five years.

The increasing demand for Li-ion batteries has also brought to the fore the need for an organised battery recycling industry in place. Expected to be a $30 billion market globally by 2030, li-ion recycling industry is still in its nascent stages in India and has gaps to be fixed. The absence of a strong reverse supply chain which ensures the collection and safe transportation of end-of-life batteries to the recycler continues to be a challenge.

A file photo of Mahindra Electric employees working on the production line for Treo autorickshaws, the company's first lithium-ion battery-powered three-wheeler. AFP

Anupam Kumar

Santhosh Kumar J.

Pankaj Sharma

Unorganised logistics

Pankaj Sharma, co-founder of Bengaluru-headquartered EV battery technology company Log9, points out that in the case of lead acid batteries used in motor vehicles, a pricing mechanism that encourages the recycling of such batteries already exists. According to him, li-ion battery industry could also benefit immensely from a similar system. "When a lead acid battery, which is the 12-volt starter battery in our vehicles, goes down the customer takes it to the battery seller. The seller would typically give him ₹300-400 discount on the new battery as an exchange price," Mr. Sharma says.

"There is a pricing mechanism and a supply chain where the seller is interested in buying the old battery, offsets some money for a new battery, and then sends the old battery back to the manufacturer. In li-ion battery the reverse logistics is a little tricky because a similar back-end supply chain incentivisation must be created first," he adds.

The touch points

As per Battery Waste Management Rules 2022, the OEM or the producer of the battery has the obligation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to ensure the recycling or refurbishing of the batteries they introduce to the market. Producers are also required to ensure that the waste battery is recycled through certified recyclers.

While in a motor car replacing a battery is a quicker and easier process which could be done by a local battery dealer, it's not the same with an EV. The customer would need to take the vehicle to the original equipment manufacturer (OEM).

"Step number one in establishing reverse logistics would be identifying the first touch point where the customer can take an electric vehicle when the battery reaches its end of life. Right now, those kinds of companies are non-existent," says Mr. Sharma.

That necessitates the creation of a mechanism and some kind of financial incentive to encourage the customer to bring back the dead batteries to the OEMs, he notes.

While the first challenge of a strong reverse supply chain would be the collection of the batteries, the next step would be transporting them safely to the recycler. Li-ion batteries, even in a discharging state, are prone to catching fire if they come in contact with moisture and therefore transporting them is a riskier business.

The third step of the reverse logistics, Mr. Sharma explains, would be the recycling of the batteries and the final stage would be the purchase or consumption of the recycled materials.

"Reverse logistics would work when people involved in all four stages of it make or save money. Right now, it's very well established in the lead acid battery. It is almost non-existent or just beginning to be created in the lithium-ion sector," says Mr. Sharma.

"It's very disorganized as of now. Different businesses are trying products or services related to different stages of reverse logistics. Step number three or recycling is where we see some action. But the entire pipeline is not yet created."

Formalising the sector

Santhosh Kumar J., founder of Li-Circle which provides Li-ion battery recycling solutions, notes that most of the end-of-life Li-ion batteries are going to unorganized players today for recycling. Some organized players in the supply chain also encourage this as they get better prices from the unorganized players who don't have to deal with compliance and formal documentation.

"The problem is not with the collection of the Li-ion batteries. Collection can be done at dealerships or service centres. But are these dealerships and service centres mandated to give it to authorized recyclers is the question," he says. According to him while a majority of lead-acid batteries are being recycled in India today, a large chunk of it goes to the unorganized players. If a similar situation is to arise in the Li-ion battery recycling sector, he points out that it wouldn't bode well for the country as lithium, cobalt and nickel sources are scarce here.

"We have to recycle and mine them here rather than allowing some local processes to take over and waste them. Organised players can do a better job with that. There should be measures to bring the unorganised players to the organised sector," Mr. Kumar notes. While he feels that OEMs are yet to be serious about reverse logistics of the batteries, he hopes that with stricter EPR in place, there would be more positive changes.

"The markets of Li-ion battery and its recycling are in their nascent stages. This is the right time to correct the channels. We have existing channels for e-waste. We have to leverage them and make sure that the end-of-life batteries come to the authorized recyclers."

Stricter EPR

Anupam Kumar, co-founder and CEO of Mini Mines, feels things are improving lately. According to him several OEMs earlier used to fulfil the EPR only on paper, but lately, the regulations have become stricter.

"The earlier scenario was that batteries were being thrown away, and nobody used to take care of the reverse supply chain. But with the government implementing strict policies, including bans on battery exports and black mass exports, it's creating a strong reverse supply chain," he says. According to him a couple of years ago the battery recycling ratio was heavily skewed towards the unorganized sector which recycled almost 75 percent of the batteries. Noting that today it has come down to around 50 percent he hopes in the next couple of years organized players would be handling 80 percent of the recycling powered by a strong reverse supply chain and government policies.

Timely intervention helps re-implantation of woman's four severed fingers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Timely intervention by doctors at a private hospital in the city helped re-implantation of four severed fingers of a 44-year-old woman.

The woman, Manjula, a resident of Kolar, accidentally injured her left hand in an electrical fodder cutting machine at around 11.30 a.m. on October 1. The accident resulted in complete amputation of her thumb, index, middle and ring fingers.

In a 12-hour surgery, doctors at HOSMAT hospital where she was brought after first aid in Kolar, reconstructed her four fingers.

The surgery was successful as the patient was rushed to the hospital within four hours of the accident. The surgery was conducted by a team of doctors led by Thomas Chandy, Chairman and Chief of Orthopaedics at the hospital. The team comprised of Kannan Karuppiah Kumar, Hand and Microvascular Surgeon, Deepu N.K., Plastic and Microvascular Surgeon and Gautham Pate, anesthesiologist.

"She arrived at our emergency department at 3 p.m. on Sunday within four hours of the injury. It is important to reach hospital within six hours in such accidents."

"The relatives had brought the amputated parts by wrapping them in a gauze piece and placing them in an ice box," said Dr. Chandy.

"The amputated parts were first taken to the operating theatre and were inspected under the surgical microscope. The surgery was performed using a special operating microscope, which enlarges the tissues 10-20 times. The arteries of the fingers are the size of a thin cotton thread," he said.

All severed arteries, veins, nerves and tendons were reconstructed and broken bones were fixed using surgical wires. The surgery that began at 4 p.m. on Sunday ended at 4 a.m. the next day.

The patient will be discharged in a couple of days and can resume farming activities in about three months, the doctor added.

Are you a dog flea person or a cat flea person?

Our quest for knowledge is unending and overfunded, from all accounts

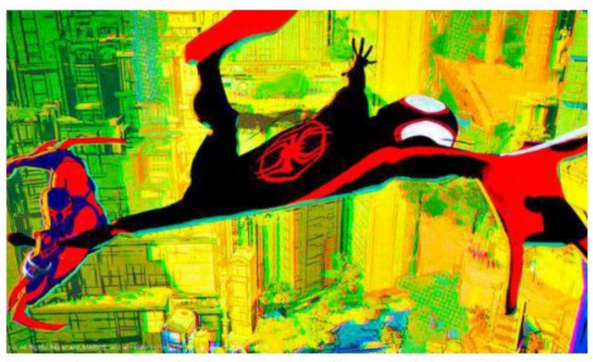
ABOUT 500 WORDS

Suresh Menon

There is nothing wrong with the way we turn doorknobs. You walk up to the door, stand at the appropriate distance put out your hand (right or left, according to preference) and turn. It's as easy as falling off a log.

I am not aware of any research into falling off logs, although a group of scientists is probably working on just such a project right now. But that other thing - turning the doorknob - has been subject to scientific study. By researchers in Japan. Their conclusion: the larger the knob, the more fingers you will need in order to open it. For one wider than one centimetre, you need at least three fingers. Good to know.

Just as it is good to know that Spiderman does not exist, as researchers at Cambridge University discovered. The reason: to be able to climb walls, we would need large sticky feet and a shoe size of 145. Research is still



Researchers at Cambridge University discovered that Spiderman does not exist.

Money won't buy happiness, but it will pay the salaries of a large research staff to study the problem

proceeding, doubtless, on the Batman and Superman question.

Our quest for knowledge is unending and overfunded, from all accounts. Imagine that such research is being funded, peer-reviewed, published, and possibly winning awards in some corner of the earth (which, doubtless, another research team has proved is not made of cheese).

A study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* has proved conclusively that it is useful to have a fan in summer because it can make you feel "cooler."

Albert Einstein has provided researchers with this defence: If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it? Money won't buy happiness, but it will pay the salaries of a large research staff to study the problem. I am not sure who said this, but it's not Dorothy Parker. Where would we be without the knowledge that dog fleas jump higher than cat fleas? This from the National Veterinary School of Toulouse, which concluded that the average height of a dog flea jump was 15.5 centimetres while the less athletic cat flea could manage only 13.2. Now I know why I am a dog person, unlike my wife, who is a cat person.

Talking of knowledge, how is this: the Sintef Unimed in Norway and the Technical University of Denmark published a study proving that wearing wet underwear in the cold was not a good idea. In case you thought that doesn't sound scientific enough, here's the title of the study: *The Impact of Wet Underwear on Thermoregulatory Responses and Thermal Comfort in the Cold*.

So, back to the doorknob. There are people (I am told) who will try to turn it with two fingers, or after a party to celebrate their hockey team's victory, one finger even. Then there are those who will ignore their fingers and use the palm of their hands for the same purpose.

Isn't it important that we pass on this and similar knowledge, especially about thermo regulatory responses, to our children in the hope that they will find the funding for similar projects?

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 9, 1973

Pamphlets Thrown in Court

Bangalore, Oct. 8: Seven persons were taken into custody by the police, when they tried to obstruct proceedings in the Mysore High Court to-day. When the Chief Justice, Mr. G.K. Govinda Bhat and Mr. Justice M.K. Srinivas Iyengar, sat in Court Hall I, these persons shouted slogans against the Chief Justice and started throwing pamphlets.

The Kannada pamphlets purported to be issued by the Samaj Vadi Yuvaka Sangha, stated that the Chief Justice should be removed for giving a donation of Rs. 5,000 to the Aswini Hospital, under the auspices of the Viswa Hindu Parishat. It alleged that the Parishad believed in the Bhagavad Gita and other scriptures, which believed in the caste system. The court keeper, with the the police constable handed them over to the Cubbon Park police station.

Indifference to Council: Mysore MLCs' charge

Bangalore, Oct. 8: The long interval between the convening of the Mysore Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council figured prominently in the Council when it began its session to-day.

The Opposition, led by its leader, Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde, Cong-(O), described this as an insult and disrespect to the House and demanded an apology from the Government. The Opposition questioned the promulgation of an Ordinance when a particular Bill was before a Select Committee of the House. The delay in the presentation of supplementary demands in the Upper House was also unprecedented.

Dystopian dreams of a teenage metalhead

Guitarist, vocalist and composer Arav Krishnan, aka ArK talks of his debut album released by an international label, and the importance of always putting fun first

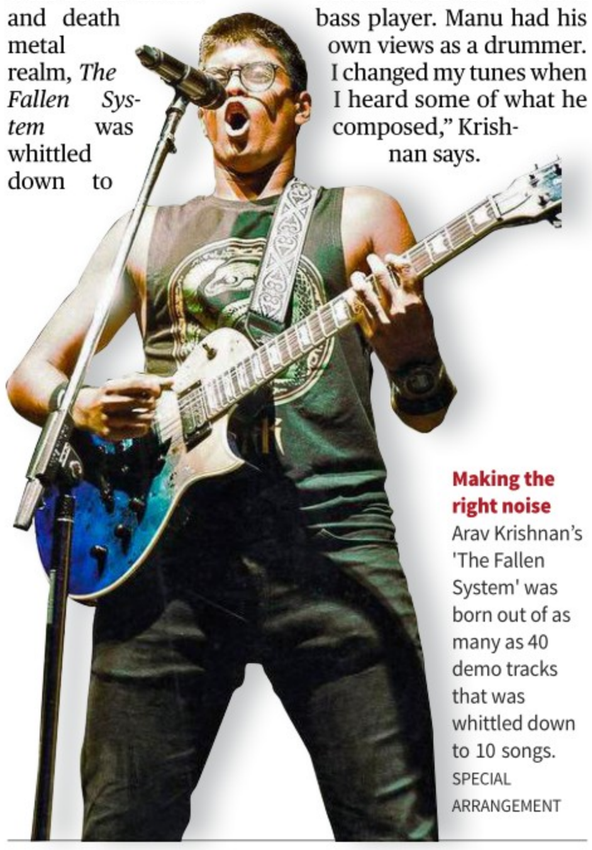
ANURAG TAGAT

At the age of 17, guitarist, vocalist and composer Arav Krishnan can claim an album released by an international label; one that includes contributions from Indian metal's seasoned artists. His debut record, *The Fallen System*, which came out on July 4 via Latvian label Sliptrick Records, was produced by Nikhil 'Wartooth' (from thrash metal band Chaos) and features Chaos drummer Manu Krishnan as well as bassist Narayan Shrouthy (from metallers Inner Sanctum).

One of the first things Arav Krishnan, who also goes by the moniker ArK, says is that it was always about putting fun first and not really about making money. Born out of as many as 40 demo tracks that were in the thrash and death metal realm, *The Fallen System* was whittled down to 10 songs, including a short instrumental intro and the project's lead single 'To Take The Fall'. With Nikhil on board, the duo sat down with each demo and wrote new parts, while Krishnan was working on lyrics simultaneously.

Inspired by themes of dystopia, especially George Orwell's seminal work *1984*, Krishnan cites Slayer as a key influence in terms of the lyrics and ominous visual and sonic aura of his album.

Each song was further bolstered by the presence of featured bassist Narayan Shrouthy and drummer Manu Krishnan. "They made it better than I possibly could have, because they're veteran and extremely good musicians. The basslines that Narayan created were better than anything I could think of, because I'm not even a bass player. Manu had his own views as a drummer. I changed my tunes when I heard some of what he composed," Krishnan says.



Making the right noise Arav Krishnan's 'The Fallen System' was born out of as many as 40 demo tracks that was whittled down to 10 songs. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Working in the presence of seasoned artists, the guitarist says he pushed himself to look beyond anything generic or formulaic to bring his own style, especially with guitar solos on various songs.

When 'To Take The Fall' released in 2021 with a music video, it attracted interest from labels and Krishnan received a mail from Sliptrick.

There were multiple conversations over terms and details before Krishnan finally signed on the dotted line, and with a label-assigned budget, there is already been one lyric video out for the title track, while the grisly song 'You Won't Live To See Tomorrow' gets an all-out visual narrative and music video, one that was directed by New Delhi-based filmmaker and photographer Maan Boruah. "He's a metalhead as well, which is always nice because they understand where you're coming from," Krishnan says. They went over themes and storyboarded a narrative which was shot on camera in New Delhi.

The visit to the capital also gave Krishnan a chance to take the album live, albeit as a one-man show with backing tracks that he played guitars and sang over.

"In the live circuit, you only get better by actually experiencing what it's all about," says the guitarist, who began playing at the age of 12.

More recently, he took on another solo show, this time on home ground in Bengaluru on October 1. "This was the actual, real show, because in Delhi I played only a couple of songs. In Bangalore, I played five songs among a festival lineup of sorts. You have to be really energetic and make sure you interact with the crowd," the guitarist adds.

There might be more gigs coming up, even as Krishnan preps new music for release and the music video for 'You Won't Live To See Tomorrow'. "We might have a physical release of the album coming soon and new merch designs too," he adds.

When endangered species get stamped

Arkatapa Basu

There is a new book for philately fans who want to dive into the world of conservation. On September 26, retired IFS officer Madiraju Lokeswara Rao released another book on thematic philately.

This time focussing on endangered species. His previous book was *Himalayan Birds on Stamps*.

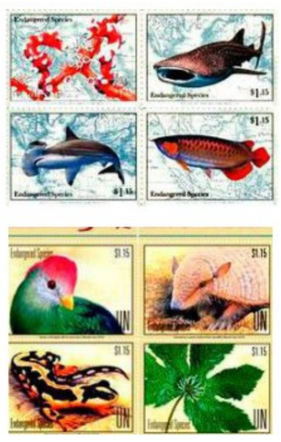
Titled *CITES Endangered Species on Stamps*, the book explores various philatelic materials on species that have been classified as endangered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) from 1993 to 2023.

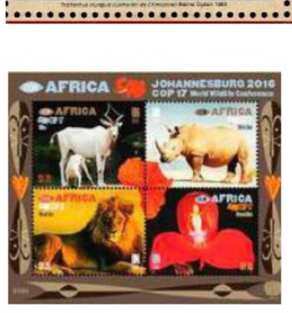
A total of 421 philatelic material are used in the book, of which, 360 are images of the stamps released by the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA). The 130-page book was jointly released by the Chief Postmaster General S Rajendra Kumar and the author, Madiraju Lokeswara Rao.

These vibrant stamps are not just collectables for philatelic enthusiasts, but also provide a creative platform to promote conservation efforts by raising

awareness and funds for the protection of endangered species and their habitats.

Lokeshwara's book aims to accomplish just that. The book, which comprises stamps of endangered species ranging from the snow leopard and the manatee to the saguaro cactus found in the deserts of Arizona and Mexico, also analyses the status of these species and their habitats The book also highlights that the current biodiversity loss – one of the nine planetary boundaries used to measure the health of our planet, driven by human-led activities.





Creative endeavour The book has images that draw attention to the species and their habitat. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

We have the responsibility to take care of nature. We have to adopt a more eco-friendly lifestyle

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has documented over 147,500 species till 2022.

Of this, about 139,000 species are well-documented with information on ecology, population size, threats, and conservation status. Around 28% of all the species (41,000 species) assessed are threatened with extinction.

At least 32,800 species of plants and 5,950 species of animals are protected against over-exploitation and illegal trading by CITES. Over the last 30 years, the organisation has grouped the species according to the level of threat caused by international trade.

This list of species include primates, parrots, sea turtles, cetaceans, cacti, orchids and corals.

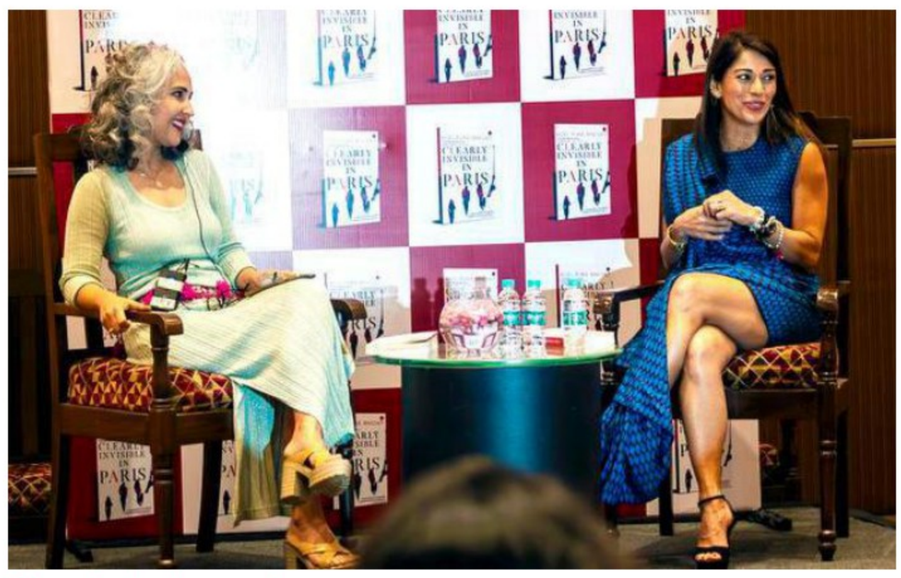
"There is a popular saying – human being is supreme. I disagree. I believe nature is. Despite all the progress we have made, a tiny virus managed to bring the world to a standstill. Humans, need to do more to stop the rapid loss of biodiversity," Lokeshwara said during the launch of the book. Talking about the impact of anthropogenic activities, he said there is an urgent need for global cooperation to address environmental issues, protect biodiversity and preserve the delicate balance of ecosystems.

Thematic philately can be a great tool in raising awareness. Many countries issue postage stamps featuring images of endangered or threatened species. These stamps often showcase the beauty and diversity of wildlife too, while drawing attention to the need for their conservation.

Lokeshwara suggests that taking individual responsibility and adjusting our mindset is the best way to conserve nature and its bounty.

"We have the responsibility to take care of nature. We have to adopt a more eco-friendly lifestyle, plant trees, save water and electricity and switch to renewable energy, to protect the planet," he said.

CITES Endangered Species on Stamps, *priced at ₹1399 is available at Amazon.in*



Women, books and conversations Koël Purie Rinchet and Anuja Chauhan in conversation about 'Clearly Invisible in Paris'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A book about female friendships

Staff Reporter

"I have never felt more invisible as I have in Paris," says actor and writer, Koël Purie Rinchet, at a recent event in Bengaluru about her debut novel, *Clearly Invisible in Paris*.

Drawing from this feeling, the four major characters of the novel, Neera, Rosel, Violet and Dasha, also have a sense of being unseen, she says. "That is what this story is about; who helps you become more visible," she says, adding that in the case of her four characters, "it is friendship that comes from odd places, the unlikeliest of them."

At the event, which consisted of a dramatic performance from the book, followed by a conversation with writer Anuja Chauhan, the conversation veered from a snapshot of the four major characters of the novel to Purie's writing process, the genesis of the book, the relevance of marriage, why girlfriends are important and so much more.

Anuja started the conversation by asking, "Is this the season of female friendships?" She pointed out that narratives exploring this theme are very much in vogue at the moment.

"I don't know this season business," responded Koel, with a laugh. "I am a girl's girl. It has always been the girls for me," she said, conceding, however, that the prevalence of female-centric stories could stem from the fact that women are occupying more places of power and empowering other women.

The discussion then went into the setting and location of the novel, the interesting depiction of marriages and what went into fleshing out the various characters in the novel. "This isn't a love letter to Paris," clarified Koel, pointing out that living in a city that prides itself on being superior to all others in terms of food, music, culture and art is not always easy. "Paris sounds like a mother-in-law," was Anuja's response to this, a statement that had the mostly female audience in the room burst into laughter.

Though all her characters have been written with sympathy, they are also incredibly flawed.

Koel marvels aloud at how they took a life of their own as she wrote them. "I wasn't in control of each character," she admitted with a laugh. "They just took off on their own."

ED inspects T.N. quarries, starts sand mining probe

It seeks assistance of Water Resources Department engineers to assess quantum of sand excavated; investigators visit stockyards too

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials on Sunday visited sand quarries across Tamil Nadu to measure the sand available at stockyards and assess the quantum of sand mined in recent times. Investigators, assisted by Water Resources Department engineers, visited stockyards and sand quarries as part of a probe into illegal sand mining.

The officials are investigating allegations that a large quantity of sand was excavated from riverbeds and sold illegally, bypassing the online sales mechanism, thereby causing a huge loss to the State exchequer.

Investigation follows allegations that a large quantity of sand was excavated from riverbeds and sold illegally.

The central agency conducted searches on September 12, 2023, at all sand stockyards or depots and claimed to have seized incriminating documents pointing to irregularities in the sale of sand, including fake receipts and counterfeit QR codes. They also seized CCTV footage and other data storage devices resulting in sand sales coming to a grinding halt in the State for about a week. Amidst suspicion of large-scale evasion of GST, the ED is probing a money laundering offence in the sand mining business.

The sources said responding to a request made by the ED seeking assistance of the WRD engineers for physical inspection and aerial mapping to assess the quantum of excess sand mined, the WRD Engineer- in-Chief and Chief Engineer General on Saturday informed that Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers in all the sand mining sites would extend their "best and full cooperation" to the officials in getting permission and logistic support.

Sand shortage

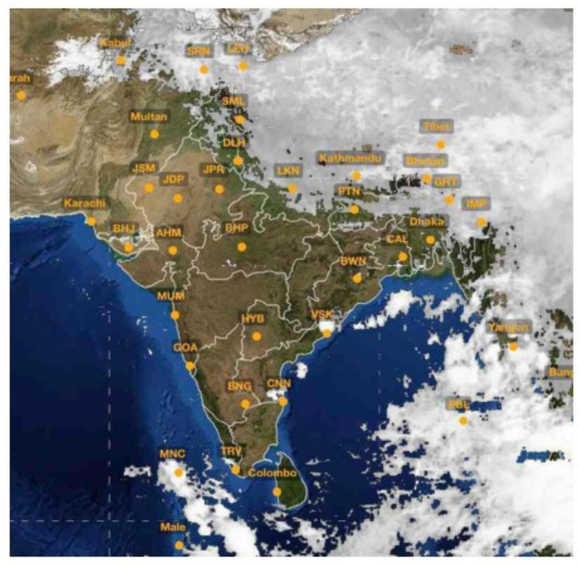
Meanwhile, sand lorry owners' associations claimed that there was an acute shortage of river sand in the market as the quantity of sand made available through online mode had come down drastically. Tamil Nadu Sand Lorries Owners' Protection Association president K. Rajasekar alleged that the cost of five units of river sand had increased from ₹25,000 to ₹45,000 (in the black market) due to the increasing demand.

"Before the ED raid, a few hundreds of lorries entered the sand stockyards to purchase sand through online/offline mode. Since the sales are strictly through online mode now, there are hardly 10-15 lorries taking sand from stockyards per day. This has resulted in an acute shortage of sand in the market which is affecting construction activities," Mr. Rajasekar said.

The Tamil Nadu Sand Lorry Owners Federation president Sella Rajamani appealed to the State government to open all the sand quarries and commence full fledged sale of sand through online mode.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Light to moderate rainfall at many places with isolated heavy rainfall accompanied with thunderstorm and lightning very likely over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Sikkim.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.4	32.0	26.0	Kozhikode	—	34.0	26.0
Ahmedabad	—	35.0	24.0	Kurnool	—	38.0	25.0
Aizawl	—	24.0	18.0	Lucknow	—	36.0	23.0
Allahabad	—	36.0	24.0	Madurai	—	37.0	24.0
Bengaluru	—	30.0	21.0	Mangaluru	—	31.0	25.0
Bhopal	—	34.0	20.0	Mumbai	—	34.0	25.0
Bhubaneswar	—	35.0	26.0	Mysuru	—	33.0	23.0
Chandigarh	—	34.0	21.0	New Delhi	—	37.0	22.0
Chennai	0.5	32.0	26.0	Patna	0.1	34.0	26.0
Coimbatore	—	35.0	23.0	Port Blair	—	30.0	25.0
Dehradun	—	33.0	19.0	Puducherry	—	35.0	27.0
Gangtok	31.0	21.0	17.0	Pune	—	36.0	23.0
Goa	—	32.0	24.0	Raipur	—	33.0	22.0
Guwahati	0.4	32.0	24.0	Ranchi	—	31.0	22.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	22.0	Shillong	18.0	21.0	16.0
Hyderabad	—	34.0	21.0	Shimla	—	27.0	15.0
Imphal	—	30.0	22.0	Srinagar	—	27.0	11.0
Jaipur	—	36.0	24.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.0	25.0
Kochi	—	31.0	26.0	Tiruchi	—	37.0	26.0
Kohima	—	23.0	15.0	Vijayawada	—	36.0	26.0
Kolkata	—	33.0	27.0	Visakhapatnam	—	34.0	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO 2	NO 2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	...4	..—	20	... 109	...113	
Bengaluru	.11	..—	28	 96	...123	
Chennai	...6	..73	31	 21	35	
Delhi	.12	..83	79	... 264	...264	
Hyderabad	.19	..44	44	... 124	.....—	
Kolkata	...9	..40	26	 90	...102	
Lucknow	...9	..62	36	... 184	...223	
Mumbai	...3	..44	80	... 174	82	
Pune	..—	..28	66	... 170	...118	
Visakhapatnam	...6	..63	32	... 148	...155	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Yamunanagar, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 275 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 20.

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Detonator flung at MLA's car; one held

The Hindu Bureau
PUTTAPARTHI

The Andhra Pradesh police took a youth into custody on Sunday after he allegedly hurled a detonator at the convoy of Penukonda MLA and former Minister M. Sankaranarayana at Gaddam Thanda hamlet, 40 km from here, in Sri Sathya Sai district. The identity of the accused is not known.

The YSRCP MLA was at Gorantla mandal to take part in a programme. As he and other leaders alighted from their vehicles, the youth hurled a detonator at the MLA's car. It landed amid bushes.

Photos of Godse displayed during Shobha Yatre in Chitradurga

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Unidentified men displayed the images of Nathuram Godse during the Hindu Maha Ganapati Shobha Yatre in Chitradurga on Sunday.

The immersion procession of the Ganesha idol was organised by Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishat. Some youth danced to songs in front of Congress MLA K.C. Veerendra. And, images of Veer Savarkar and Bajrang Dal activist Sharat Madiwal were also displayed. The procession began from the Jain Dham near Challakere Gate and passed through BD Road, Madakari Nayaka Circle, Gandhi Circle, Sangolli Rayanna Circle and Kanaka Circle. And, the immersion was scheduled to be held at Chandravalli Well in the early hours of Monday. The police said over 3,000 people were present during the procession. The organisers had obtained permits for playing music through disco jockey audio systems. But the police stopped the music in front of the District Hospital.

The Hindu Maha Ganapati idol immersion procession in Chitradurga on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SC to take up TDP chief's petition today

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The special leave petition filed by former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, seeking quashing of the FIR filed in the skill development scam case, will come up for hearing in the Supreme Court on Monday. The TDP president was arrested on September 9 by CID. The High Court had earlier dismissed his petition. The Anti Corruption Bureau Court will take up his bail plea and CID custody petition the same day.

Ex-MLA from BJP to join Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former MLA Poornima is set to join the Congress on October 20, according to a communique from the Chief Minister's Office. Ms. Poornima, a BJP leader, held discussions with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
BRAND Bengaluru
Bengaluru Transformation through People Participation
VOICE OF CITIZEN - VOICE OF GOVERNMENT
Bengaluru SMART CITY
Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
BRAND BENGALURU CONCLAVE
Discussion and Interaction on the
Development of Bengaluru as a Global Brand
Date : 09.10.2023, Monday | Time: 10.00 AM
Venue : Gnana Jyothi Auditorium (Central College Campus)
More than 70000 suggestions and opinions have been received on Eight Development Paradigms.
Discussions were held with Significant / Prestigious Institutions and Civil Society Organizations in Bengaluru.
The suggestions have been accepted by institutions at the State, National, and International levels.
To consolidate suggestions, Eight Academic and Knowledge Partners have been appointed.
Today's crucial conclave will have more than 500 experts submitting their opinions.
AGILE BENGALURU
CLEAN BENGALURU
GREEN BENGALURU
VIBRANT BENGALURU
HEALTHY
HEALTHY BENGALURU
TECH BENGALURU
EDUCATION BENGALURU
SATED BENGALURU
THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE CAMPAIGN AND GIVING VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS
Issued by:
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002
As enshrined in our Constitution it is the fundamental duty of every Citizen of the Country 'to safeguard public property and abjure violence'.
Administrator | Chief Commissioner
Sri D.K. Shivakumar, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister, takes a look at the suggestions and opinions from the people for the development of Brand Bengaluru.
M BG-BGE

NewsClick non-case

The strange case of a terrorism FIR without a terrorist act

The FIR registered by the Delhi Police against Prabir Purkayastha, the founder of *NewsClick*, and others is a vague amalgam of sweeping accusations that do not actually disclose any offence, leave alone one of terrorism. Without citing any published content, the FIR alleges offences range from a conspiracy to undermine the country's security to disrupting the 2019 parliamentary polls, from causing disaffection against the government to disrupting essential services. It invokes provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and penal provisions relating to conspiracy and promoting enmity between different groups. Quite notably, it does not mention any overt act that may be described as unlawful activity or a terrorist act. There is a general description that foreign funds were infused illegally into India by forces inimical to the country with the objective of causing disaffection against the government, disrupting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India, and threatening its unity and security. It refers to a 'conspiracy' based on purported email exchanges to show Arunachal Pradesh and Kashmir as "not part of India", and also moves to protract the farmers' agitation of 2020-21 and thereby disrupt supply of services and other essential supplies.

Overall, it is quite clear that the police are combining the remittances by American businessman Neville Roy Singham in *NewsClick* with its journalistic content to build a case that "Chinese" funds are being used for propaganda, fomenting unlawful activities, and undermining the country's security. The UAPA is also conducive to such misuse as its widely defined terms can as easily help criminalise people for 'thought crimes' as for their acts. The resort to UAPA is also a tactical aid to prolong the incarceration of dissenters and the disfavoured, and send out a chilling message to the wider media fraternity. There is also the likely electoral spin-off in its potential for the ruling BJP to milk the 'Chinese conspiracy' theory in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls. A related question is whether the alleged creation of shell companies by two telecom companies does not merit more than a casual mention in an unrelated FIR and warrant a separate probe into these conduits for funding terror. In mentioning that a lawyer was among those who helped create a legal network for these companies' defence, the police seem to be considering criminalising legal services. The case flags a disturbing trend: the present regime's propensity to misuse anti-terror laws and invoke national security sentiment to undermine individual and media rights.

Tightrope walk

By not raising interest rates, RBI betrays its concerns about slowing growth

The decision of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to leave interest rates unchanged even as the central bank warned of the major risk that 'high inflation' poses to macroeconomic stability is a clear sign that monetary authorities find themselves caught in a cleft stick. After a relatively benign first quarter, when headline retail inflation averaged 4.63% as against the RBI's projection of 4.6%, price gains measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) accelerated sharply in the last quarter with July and August seeing readings of 7.44% and 6.83%, respectively. In a tacit acknowledgment of its misjudgment of inflationary trends, the MPC last week raised its projection for average second-quarter inflation by 20 basis points, from the August forecast of 6.2% to 6.4%. And even this projection appears overly optimistic if one considers that the headline number will need to have slowed drastically to less than 5% in September for the RBI's prognosis to be validated. For now, the MPC is hoping that the recent reduction in domestic LPG prices combined with a lowering of vegetable prices would provide some near-term respite to price pressures. Governor Shaktikanta Das underlined the RBI's willingness to resort to Open Market Operation sales of securities to suck out excess funds from the system if it sees reason to believe that liquidity may be rising to a level where it could undermine the overall monetary policy stance.

The RBI's unwillingness to walk the talk and raise interest rates further, even while reiterating the threat to overall economic stability from unmoored inflation expectations, reflects an unstated concern that the growth momentum still remains rather tenuous. The recent debate on the integrity of the NSO's data on economic growth estimates, and concern that the methodology used to posit 7.8% real GDP growth in the first quarter may have given rise to an overestimation, have to be seen in tandem with economic forecasters' increased caution over India's GDP growth outlook for the current fiscal year. Mr. Das acknowledged the weakness in India's goods exports and the uneven monsoon, which has also led to a drop in kharif sowing of crucial oilseeds and pulses, as key risks to the RBI's projection for 6.5% GDP growth in FY24. With the rupee already having weakened by about 0.7% since the last policy meeting in August, the RBI also runs the risk of importing inflation and adding to the external sector vulnerabilities if it fails to raise interest rates.

A census for a new deal

Asim Ali

is a political researcher and columnist

Marcel Proust wrote, "Men, their natures not altering overnight, seek in every new order a continuance of the old." Caste and religion have remained the master cleavages of Indian politics for most of the last century. The caste survey, released by the Bihar government, with coordinated support from the entire Opposition, can be described as a Proustian political move. It tries to constitute a new political opening through the instrument of an old paradigm.

This unfurling of the contesting flags of caste and religious identity gives the first clear shape to the ideological contours of the 2024 general elections. It also firmly reinforces the role of these twin ethnic identity constructions as the fundamental pillars of political mobilisation.

Many critics have dubbed the move as regressive, cynical, and unimaginative, and a return to the 'Mandal versus Mandir' politics we had supposedly left behind in the 1990s. Yet, this framing assumes caste- and religion-based identity politics to be pre-formed packages, whose practices have remained stagnant over the last three decades, even as the political economy has been transformed by liberalisation.

Mandal 2.0

The politics of religion and caste respond and adapt to changes in the larger socio-economic structure. As the political scientists Pradeep Chhibber and Rahul Verma explained in their book *Ideology and Identity: The Changing Party Systems of India*, the majority coalition assembled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was rooted in a novel political constituency formed with the post-liberalisation expansion of the middle class. The leadership of Mr. Modi, for the middle class, promised a firm institutionalisation of their dominant norms (on state intervention, material consumption, and 'ethno-political' pride). While middle class anxieties and aspirations have long comprised a key driver of Hindu nationalist mobilisation, their concrete ideological fusion under Mr. Modi's charismatic appeal is what shaped the present political era. This was Mandir politics 2.0.

Similarly, the Bihar caste survey inaugurates not the re-enaction of the old Mandal politics of narrow caste-based patronage, but the coming-of-age of a subordinate class-based politics. This is also Mandal 2.0.

This is new synthesisation of a class politics, in the familiar trappings of caste. Primarily, it seeks to tap into the frustrated and deeply felt desire held by large sections of the precariat to achieve middle class status. Such a status constitutes both an economic marker and a prized social status symbol. This precariat is roughly one-half of the country which finds itself sandwiched between the poor and the middle class. They have been facing a stagnant trend of upward mobility inside of an informal economy which offers little substantive protections. An estimated 75 million people, according to the Pew Research Center, slipped back into poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bulk of this precariat, which can be found in rural and urban India across occupations, is composed of lower Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Dalits, and Muslims.

The Bihar caste survey inaugurates not the re-enaction of the old Mandal politics of narrow caste-based patronage, but the coming-of-age of a subordinate class-based politics

In their book, *Beyond Consumption: India's New Middle Class in the Neo-Liberal Times*, Manish K. Jha and Pushpendra chart the composition of the middle class in terms of different caste groups. Briefly, 5% of upper castes fall in the upper-middle class segment, compared to 3% of OBCs and 1.4% of Dalits. These variations are significant, and sharpen pyramidically. The gaps are also starker in the Hindi belt States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where upper caste dominance is more entrenched. Such status inequality also tends to be much higher among Hindus than among other religious groups. For instance, Muslim OBCs form a larger proportion of both upper class and middle class segments compared to Muslim upper castes.

The coalition of the precariat depends on the glue of an enlarged ethnic block (such as the OBCs) because it can hardly be forged on abstract or universal ideas. Simply put, the precariat does not possess the "symbolic capital" to do so. The French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu defined 'symbolic capital' as the capacity to "shape the perception of social reality". This allows certain dominant groups to "impose a particular vision of the world in the name of a universal truth". Such influence is wielded largely by the Hindu middle class. Meanwhile, members of the precariat, such as the deeply fragmented and underprivileged OBCs, possess few of these social, cultural, and ideological resources. They prefer to articulate their own politics of upward mobility in terms of concrete caste identities, which draw on an alternative symbolic capital of their experience of caste and historical memories of struggle.

It is, of course, important to acknowledge the considerable failures of Mandal politics in the Hindi belt. Unlike in southern India, caste politics in the north made no substantive dent on the political economy, or institutions of power and governance, or even on poverty reduction. It was too focused on building patronage-based short-term electoral coalitions rather than building a broad and durable political constituency, as did the successful Dravidian movement in Tamil Nadu. Yet, to be fair to the caste politics of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, unlike in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, it was enacted at a time when their under-privileged support base had relatively modest economic and cultural capital. Thus, the acquisition of political capital (which Kanshi Ram called the 'master key' for the acquisition of other resources) required innovative and often unsavoury means.

Pan-Indian consensus

This time around, a progressive politics of caste seems to have generated a far broader political consensus than Mandal politics ever did. The parties supporting the caste census command a combined vote share in national elections that exceeds the vote share of the ruling BJP, which awkwardly holds on to an ambiguous stand on the issue. These parties include not just the Congress and the INDIA alliance constituents, but also the bulk of unaligned parties such as the YSR Congress Party, the Telugu Desam Party, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, and the Biju Janata Dal. In all regions of India, caste politics has clearly sustained legitimacy as an instrument of popular mobilisation, "vernacularising the norms" (Lucia Michelutti) and "democratising the social base" of politics (Yogendra Yadav).

Such a large-scale and pan-Indian consensus is fairly rare, and reflects the expanded range of possibilities for a progressive politics of caste. Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, which facilitated an unprecedented expansion of the American middle class in the 1930s and 1940s and lifted a working class ravaged by the Great Depression, was a radical institutional solution. It was essentially a political strategy to build a cross-ethnic coalition of working-class white voters, whose precarity had been intensified by the Great Depression. This coalition included low-status recent immigrants of Irish, Italian, and East European descent, mobilised through localised patronage-based politics ('machine politics'). The politics of the New Deal made use of some of these grimy mobilising mechanisms but went beyond it to evolve into an institutional remaking of American capitalism. There was a systemic shift in the economic regime, to the benefit of workers. The popularity of the New Deal made Roosevelt the only President to serve four consecutive terms. This is not to make comparisons, but only to highlight that ethnic and class politics can work complementary to one another. As yet, only at a starting stage, the politics of caste survey emphasises grander notions of equal participation (*'Jitni abadi utna haq*, or rights proportionate to population') and an institutionally negotiated distribution of resources.

One reason why Mandal politics eventually devolved into narrow caste formations was the splitting of the stream of farmer politics from the erstwhile bloc of 'Socialist Politics'; and later the rupture of lower OBCs from the Yadavs. Yet, as Anthony Giddens has argued, social actors like ethnicities or castes contain purposive agents, not automatons directed by an external structure or a false consciousness. The political elites such as the Jats in Haryana and the Marathas in Maharashtra have begun to shun exclusivist strategies and gravitate towards a larger OBC platform. This could be seen in the farmer's agitation and the Maratha-Kunbi quota stir, supported by Nationalist Congress Party leader Sharad Pawar in Maharashtra. It is also possible that sections of the lower OBCs may also re-evaluate the returns, in terms of economic mobility and social prestige, of choosing a political 'Hindu' platform as opposed to an 'OBC' platform.

Toofan Al-Aqsa jolts West Asian geostrategic architecture

Mahesh Sachdev

is a retired Indian Ambassador and head of Eco-Diplomacy and Strategies, a Delhi-based consultancy

There are uncanny similarities between the Hamas operation Toofan Al-Aqsa (Al-Aqsa Flood) and the launch of the 19-day Yom Kippur War 50 years ago. Although the latter was inconclusive, it led to a regional tectonic shift with Israel accepting a 'land for peace' formula at the Camp David Accords six years later.

With this jerky roll of the regional geostrategic kaleidoscope, can a similar outcome follow? Even as the ground situation is evolving, some broad, but inherently tentative, surmises can be made.

Key takeaways

From a military perspective, despite the fighting on its territory, Israel is not under an existential threat. The outcome is also not in doubt: Israel is expected to prevail, and push back Hamas, which lacks resources to sustain the campaign. A massive ground incursion into Gaza could follow to exact vengeance, restore morale, re-impose the strategic asymmetry, and try to rescue captured soldiers and civilians. The unsavoury experiences from abject intelligence failure to the misplaced reliance on hi-tech missile defence and Artificial Intelligence would compel Israel to revise its strategic doctrines.

The 'shock and awe' of the Hamas blitzkrieg portrayed in war images have created new, but lasting social media icons. Depending on the endgame, this conflict could potentially revive the 'military option' and further boost the standing of non-state Arab militias, such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, al-Houthis, Islamic State, various avatars of al-Qaeda, and Al-Shabaab.

Third, although the conflict could protract, it would remain geographically confined as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, both Gaza-based Sunni outfits, have few all-weather friends. In the domestic arena, the Palestinian Authority is vertically split between the West Bank run by al-Fatah, in a *modus vivendi* with Israeli occupation authorities, and Gaza administered by Hamas, which refuses to recognise Israel. As the Fatah gerontocracy has failed to stop Israeli land grabs in the West Bank, it is losing credibility with the masses, particularly young Palestinians. Hamas and Islamic Jihad are taking advantage to establish their cells in the West Bank, leading to an iron-fisted Israeli response. Thus, while the Palestinian Authority would praise "the resistance" and express indignation at the Israeli "war crimes", it would privately wish something else for its two political rivals.

On balance, a long war between Hamas and Israel does not seem likely

Regionally, too, the granular picture is largely non-supportive of Hamas. The only Arab neighbour of Gaza is Egypt, whose pro-West military regime has little love lost for the Gazan rulers as they were allies of the Muslim Brotherhood that Egyptian generals overthrew in 2013. Cairo, nevertheless, is trying to de-escalate the current situation. All the Gulf monarchies, except Qatar, strongly disapprove of Hamas, calling it a political Islamic outfit. Although Qatar regularly provides generous dollops of humanitarian assistance to the Gazans, it does not wish to annoy Washington. Turkey, a big regional Sunni power, traditionally supports Hamas, but Ankara's badly bruised economy has limited its outreach. Moreover, it is trying to reconnect with Israel and the Gulf monarchies. Hamas and Islamic Jihad burnt their bridges with Damascus a decade ago by supporting the anti-Assad Arab Spring intifada. While Damascus and Hamas had a facile reconciliation last year, the latter's karma still rankles.

Shia Iran has long been a mentor of the two Sunni outfits, at one point creating a clandestine weapons and ammunition supply line through Sudan and Egypt to Gaza. Iran has tried to replicate its success in creating a Hezbollah-type proto-state in Gaza to threaten Israel on two fronts. Other pro-Iranian regional outfits like al-Houthis could support the Gazans.

On balance, thus, a long war between Hamas and Israel seems less likely, unless Hamas overplays its hand in negotiating the release of the Israeli hostages, an Achilles heel for Israel, putting all bets off.

A 'double or quits' option

This crisis effectively presents Israel's current 10-month-old ultra-nationalist government with a 'double or quits' option. Even before Toofan Al-Aqsa, Jerusalem's hard-line has led to a surge in violence with over 200 Palestinians and 30 Israelis dead this year. Given the Israeli traditional policy on such matters coupled with the current adrenaline-high ambience, the line is likely to get harder. The crisis is also likely to corral the national unity.

The profound consequences for regional geopolitics could include a delay in the rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Israel as Tel Aviv would be unwilling to grant the concessions to the Palestinians sought by Riyadh. Other Abraham Accords signatories would hope that their wager on economic gains riding roughshod over the regional politics would stand. Iran could feel emboldened by the arch-enemy being in mortal combat.

While India is not directly affected by Toofan Al-Aqsa, it would, nevertheless feel some heat. Protracted regional turbulence could cause collateral damage through an oil price rise, impact our diaspora, and dim the prospects for India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and other I2U2 constructs. It can also highlight India as a safe, fast-growing economy for foreign investments, largely insulated from the turmoil.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hamas attack

That Hamas launched an attack on Israel is not entirely unexpected given Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people ("U.S. decries attack on Israel, Egypt calls for restraint, Iran backs Hamas," Oct. 8). The U.S. opposes Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but ignores the occupation of Palestinian territories.

Manoharan Muthuswamy
Chennai

Every stakeholder in this conflict sees an opportunity in this "war". Israel wants to expand its territory; Iran, which has always shared a hostile relationship with Israel, seems to want to prevent normalisation of Israel-Saudi ties; and the U.S. wants to support Israel since the latter is the lynchpin of its Middle East strategy. What is curious is that India's condolences are always one-sided.

Mohammad Abbas Mehdi
Prayagraj

Caste census

We are seeing a race for backwardness with the Marathas and Patels seeking OBC status to take advantage of the concessions given by the government. A caste census must be avoided because it will lead to caste consciousness and politics will veer around caste ("Madras High Court refuses to issue direction to T.N. government to conduct caste census," Oct. 4). It will polarise society further. It will be better to provide certain minimum benefits for the marginalised.

NGR Prasad
Chennai

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in

Revisiting the rail gauge debate

Sudhanshu Mani
is retired General Manager of the Indian Railways

M. Ravibabu
is Indian Railways Traffic Service (retd.)

While the predominant railway network in India is Broad Gauge (BG) with a width of 1.676 metres, the rapid rail transport system in Delhi, the high-speed rail line between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, and more than a score of metro rail systems in parts of the country are coming up on Standard Gauge (SG) of 1.435 m width.

The gauge debate began in the 1870s when the British introduced Metre Gauge of 1,000 mm in India after starting with BG in 1853. Following extensive deliberations, a uni-gauge policy was launched in the 1990s and progressively, barring a few difficult sections, all the routes were converted to BG.

However, by the turn of the 20th century, SG came to be first employed on metro rail networks following a Cabinet resolution which was based on a set of recommendations from a group of empowered Ministers, who left the decision on the choice of gauge to individual State governments.

One of the main proponents of SG was the legendary E. Sreedharan, then Managing Director (MD) of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. With an endorsement from a person of his repute, SG began to take roots in the country. Unfortunately, none of the projects since have gone into the detailed technical and economic analysis of the SG versus BG debate or the merits of integrating new rail systems with existing rail networks.

Arguments for SG

Let us examine the proffered advantages of SG. The most prominent factor in favour of SG is its universality. A majority of the metro and high-speed rail systems built in the last 20-30 years across the world are based on SG even if their respective national railways run on different gauges. Implicit here is the assumption that these systems can be stand-alone i.e. they need not be integrated with mainline railways.

However, the reality is more complex. While most metro rail networks are based on SG, metro rail systems in a number of cities and countries run on other gauges too. For instance, the metro rail systems in Tokyo (1,067 mm), Moscow (1,520 mm), Melbourne (1,600 mm) and the U.S.'s Bay Area Rapid Transport (1,676 mm) do not have SG and, except Moscow, these gauges do not conform to those of the countries' respective national rails.

An argument favouring the SG is that it requires less space. The space requirement has two parts – the physical space required on the road and the aerial space required for elevated portions. Most metro rail systems today are built on elevated structures and the land required for pillars on roads for both SG and BG is the same. Moreover, aerial space requirements for elevated portions should not be a problem as such space is abundant.

Another is the availability of the latest technology for coach design as it is the prevalent system in developed countries. This argument would have held water decades ago. In today's Atmanirbhar India, it is unsound. India has its own semi-high-speed train designs such as the Vande Bharat series of trains designed and manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai.

Yet another argument is the cost of the project with the assumption that the SG is a cheaper system. As per our assessment, the cost for a BG system would increase by around 5 %to 7% even with 25% underground network but at the same time, the BG system will be cheaper by around 10% per unit capacity as it can be designed to have approximately 15% higher capacity owing to wider coaches.

Hollow arguments against BG

One objection to BG is the higher turning radius with a consequent reduction in speed and throughput. On a given curve, the speed on SG would be around 7% higher than that on BG. As speed restrictions are confined to curves, and assuming that 20%-40% of the track length has curves, the extra time taken on BG would be between 1.5%-3%, which means that for every 10 minutes of commuting time on SG, the additional time taken on BG would be around 10 to 20 seconds. Since this is rather negligible, the argument of a higher turning radius required for BG is not tenable.

Similarly, throughput, which is the maximum number of trains that can pass through a track during a certain period of time, depends on the minimum time gap permitted between two successive trains. As braking distance and acceleration characteristics are factors of train design, the throughput on a BG system would be similar to that of a SG system.

Gauge and track structure cannot be altered except at great cost. However, the rolling stock, which are the railway vehicles that are both powered and unpowered, has a relatively short lifespan of around 30 years. They can be replaced easily and subsequently put to use for other purposes.

The most important argument omitted by all stakeholders concerns the integration of new rail networks with existing ones. The existing rail system in the country carries around 8 billion passengers and more than 1,500 million tonnes of freight annually. Simultaneously, the system is also undergoing rapid expansion. Hence, it would be advantageous to integrate new rail systems with such an extensive system and prevent the creation of incompatible islands. It will help passengers and cargo move seamlessly. This would also improve patronage. Such a flexible system would also come in handy in situations of emergency.

Taking into account the above factors, the government should re-examine the issue with a view to building all future rail systems in BG.

The most important argument omitted by all stakeholders concerns the integration of new rail networks with existing ones

Caste survey data in cold storage

Karnataka's caste census has not been accepted because of political compulsions

STATE OF PLAY

Sharath S. Srivatsa

The publication of the caste survey data by the Bihar government has had a ripple effect in Karnataka, with the focus now on the Congress government's move to accept and release the State's socio-economic and educational survey report that was finalised in 2018.

The survey, conducted by the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission and popularly called the caste census, has been caught in a political crossfire for over five years now. The Veerashaiva/Lingayats and Vokkaligas (the land-owning and politically powerful communities that have for decades held a grip on power in the State) insist that the results not be published, while a large number of backward communities, without political representation so far, want it to see the light of the day.

If published, the survey outcome could alter the power equations in Karnataka besides impacting the backward classes reservation matrix. It is estimated that about 200 of the most backward communities, that have had no political representation so far, could benefit from the move. With the term of the commission's chairman ending in November, the report is expected to be submitted soon.

Conducted in 2016, a first since the last census held in 1931, the survey has not been submitted to the government since the report was finalised in 2018. Successive governments, including the previous Congress government led by Siddaramaiah during whose term the census was conducted, have dithered on accepting the report fearing a political backlash from the Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva/Lingayats. Of the 23 Karnataka Chief Ministers, 16 have been from the two communities, and only five, including the incumbent Chief Minister, have belonged to Other Backward Classes.

A selective leak of data from the census revealed that the population of Lingayats and Vokkaligas stood at 14% and 11%, respectively, as opposed to the general perception that it is higher. It was feared that if published and authenticated, this data could possibly reduce the influence of these groups in the political sphere.

Previous narrative

An earlier narrative stated that the report could not be submitted to the previous Congress government as the commission's secretary had not affixed his signature. Hence it had become clear that the government, which had asked for the report, did not want to head into the 2018 Assembly elections by antagonising the two communities.

Representatives from the two communities have termed the ₹162 crore-worth census exercise unscientific and unreliable. They claim that the questionnaires were "misleading" and "aimed at dividing the communities into subsects to deliberately bring down numbers."

Interestingly, Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva/Lingayats also figure in the OBC list, though their inclusion has been a contested issue. In the late 1970s, Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs introduced the OBC reservation in which Vokkaligas found a place based on the L.G. Havanur Commission report. In subsequent decades, though the T. Venkataswamy Commission did not include the two communities in the OBC list, the Janata government headed by Ramakrishna Hegde drew a separate list adding the communities to it in 1986. In 1994, the Congress government headed by M. Veerappa Moily also included both these communities in the backward classes reservation list despite the O. Chinnappaa Reddy Commission dropping them from the list in 1988.

Call for results

However, those favouring the publication of the new report have pointed out that the higher population narrative set by the two communities was based on the projected population from 1931.

They argue that the current list of backward classes was last drawn up in 1994, and requires re-categorisation based on the survey outcome. The commission needs to review the list, remove communities that have become ineligible, and add those eligible once in 10 years – an exercise not undertaken in three decades.

Though Mr. Siddaramaiah has publicly asserted the need for caste census data for better representation and poverty alleviation, political compulsions may eventually prevail. Government sources indicate that the report could go into cold storage at least until the 2024 Lok Sabha elections are over.

Israel-Gaza war: Thousand dead, thousands displaced

Six hundred people were killed in Israel, a staggering toll the country has not experienced in decades

DATA POINT

Agencies

Several Israeli media outlets reported on Sunday that the death toll from Hamas' wide-ranging incursion into Israel has risen to 600.

Israeli soldiers battled Hamas fighters in the streets of southern Israel on Sunday and launched retaliation strikes that levelled buildings in Gaza, while in northern Israel a brief exchange of strikes with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group raised fears of a broader conflict.

There was still some fighting underway more than 24 hours after an unprecedented surprise attack from Gaza, in which Hamas militants, backed by a volley of thousands of rockets, broke through Israel's security barrier and rampaged through nearby communities. They took captives back into the coastal Gaza enclave, including women, children and elderly, who they will likely try to trade for thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

At least 600 people have reportedly been killed in Israel – including 44 soldiers – a staggering toll on a scale the country has not experienced in decades. Officials in Gaza said 313 people had died in the territory. An Israeli official said security forces have killed 400 militants and captured dozens more. Civilians paid a staggering cost for the violence on both sides. **Chart 1** shows the number of Palestinians and Israelis who were killed since 2008 in the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel in the context of the occupation and conflict. The latest attack is marked separately.

Chart 1 also shows that this is by far the deadliest attack on Israel by a wide margin. It depicts that the number of Palestinians who died in the conflict far outnumber the deaths on the other side every year.

The Israeli military said it had deployed tens of thousands of soldiers around Gaza and was starting to evacuate all Israelis living around the frontier of the territory. The Gaza Strip is an impoverished Palestinian enclave that has been under Israeli blockade since 2007. One of the most densely populated places on the planet, Gaza is home to over two million Palestinians living on a 362sq. km strip of land. It is ruled by Hamas, now at war with Israel for the fifth time in 15 years.

Volatile Gaza

Chart 2 shows the number of Palestinians and Israelis killed since 2008. Gaza recorded the most deaths in the region. From Gaza, on Saturday, Hamas militants streamed into Israeli urban areas, including Ashkelon, Sderot, and Ofakim, which is about 22 km away from the city. The attack marked an unprecedented infiltration into Israel by an unknown number of Hamas gunmen crossing from the Gaza Strip.

Israeli media reported gun battles between bands of Palestinian fighters and security forces in towns in southern Israel. Israel's police chief said there were "21 active scenes'' in southern Israel. **Map 3** shows the flashpoints of the ongoing conflict.

The UN agency for Palestinian Refugees, UNRWA, said over 20,000 people were sheltering in 44 of its schools around Gaza by Saturday evening. "The number (of displaced) is rapidly increasing, " said Inas Hamdan, acting public information officer in Gaza. Over the past year, Israel's far-right government has ramped up settlement construction in the occupied West Bank, Israeli settler violence has displaced hundreds of Palestinians there, and tensions have flared around al-Aqsa mosque, a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site. **Chart 4** shows the demolition of Palestinian-owned structures and the resulting displacement of people from their homes across the West Bank since 2009.

Israel-Palestine conflict in numbers

The data for the charts were sourced from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

*as per reports on Sunday

Chart 1: The chart shows the number of Palestinians and Israelis killed since 2008. The latest attack is the deadliest on Israel but Palestinian fatalities due to the conflict outnumber Israel's

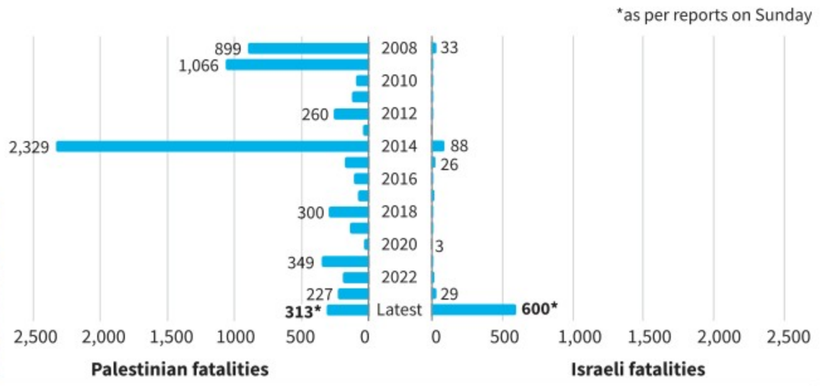


Chart 2: The chart shows the number of Palestinians and Israelis who were killed since 2008, across cities and camps

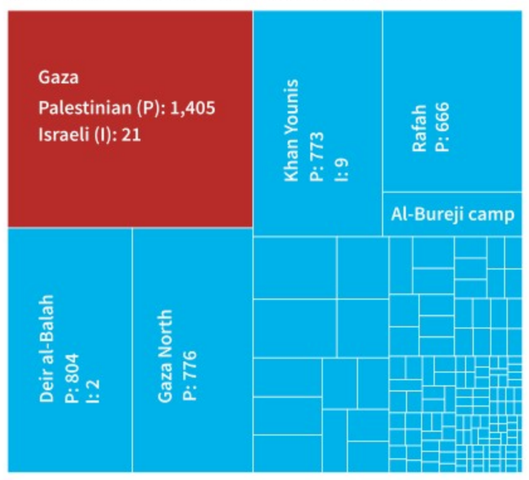
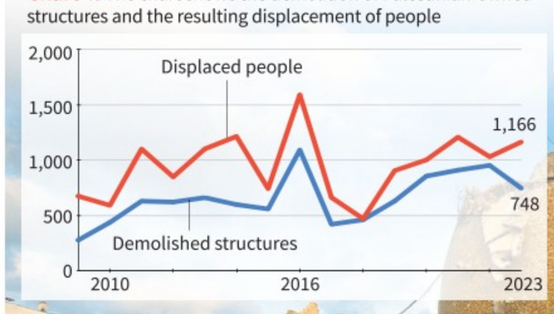
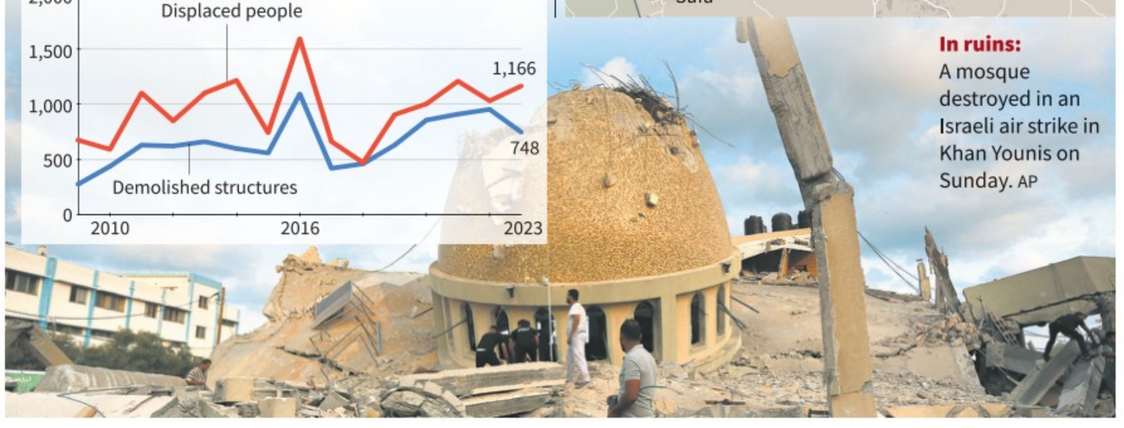


Chart 4: The chart shows the demolition of Palestinian-owned structures and the resulting displacement of people



Map 3: The map shows the flashpoints of the ongoing conflict



In ruins: A mosque destroyed in an Israeli air strike in Khan Younis on Sunday. AP

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 9, 1973

Israel claims pushing back Egyptian forces

Tel Aviv, Oct. 8

Israeli tanks to-day forced the Syrian army to retreat and pushed Egyptian forces back to the Suez Canal. Israel's military chief announced, but advancing Israelis stopped short of crossing the waterway.

"We are continuing our counter-attack..... We are moving from our territory against the other side..... The next days will see the direction and results," declared the Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar.

A few Syrian and Egyptian units were holding out inside Israeli territory but we will attack the enemy until we break their bones, Gen. Elazar said.

He called the West Asia war that exploded on Saturday the war of judgement.

We have managed to destroy many hundreds of Syrian tanks on the Golan heights and many hundreds of Egyptian tanks in the Sinai.... We have shot down the enemy planes on both fronts, the General told a press conference.

Reports said that in some places, Syrian infantry had already withdrawn to behind the 1967 ceasefire line.

Sinai will soon be totally under Israel's control again, a senior Air Force officer said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 9, 1923

Drinking water

The following G.O. has been issued on the question of sterilising drinking water.

The question of sterilising drinking water by chlorination has been engaging the attention of the Government for some time past.

The Government understand that chlorine is not manufactured in India. In December 1922, at the instance of the Public Health Board, a Committee consisting of the Director of Public Health and the Director of the King Institute of Preventive Medicine was appointed to conduct experiments on the use of 'stabilised bleach' for chlorination of drinking water. The results of the experiments made are embodied in the report of the Committee, printed as appendix to this order. On a consideration of this report, the Public Health Board has recommended the use of 'stabilised bleach'. Local boards and Municipal councils are accordingly advised to make use of 'stabilised bleach'.

From Page One

Israeli air strikes pound Gaza as death toll rises

Israel's military, which faces questions over its failure to prevent the attack, said it had regained control of most infiltration points along security barriers, killed hundreds of attackers and taken dozens more prisoner.

"We're going to be attacking Hamas severely and this is going to be a long, long haul," an Israeli military spokesperson told reporters. The military said that it had deployed tens of thousands of soldiers around Gaza and was starting to evacuate all Israelis living around the frontier of the territory.

More than 20,000 Palestinians in Gaza have sought refuge in schools run by the United Nations, the U.N.'s Palestinian refugee agency said.

The conflict could undermine U.S.-backed moves towards normalising relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia – a security realignment that could threaten Palestinian hopes of self determination and hem in Hamas' main backer, Iran.

Indians asked to remain in contact with embassy

Mr. Muraleedharan said Indians who were stranded in Israel were safe. Speaking to reporters in Kochi, Mr. Muraleedharan drew attention to the advisory that the Indian Embassy in Tel Aviv had issued on Saturday which urged them to stay in contact with the Indian officials. Terming the attack on Israel as a terror plot by the Hamas, the Union Minister expressed solidarity with the people of Israel.

According to the latest information with the External Affairs Ministry, approximately 900 Indian students are studying in Israel, mainly at doctoral and post-doctoral levels. There are around 85,000 Israeli citizens of Indian origin who are Israeli passport holders, out of which many maintain intense personal and professional contacts with India.

NC-Cong. sweeps Kargil election with 22 seats

"These election results should serve as a wake-up call for the BJP. It is time to cease hiding behind the Raj Bhavan and unelected representatives and, instead, acknowledge the people's rightful desire for a democratically elected government in J&K. Democracy demands the voices of the people be heard and respected," he said. Mr. Abdullah expressed gratitude to the Congress leadership for its "unwavering support".

The Congress threw its support behind the demands of the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) – a local alliance fighting for Statehood and special constitutional guarantees on protecting Ladakh's culture, land, jobs, and environment – when former party chief Rahul Gandhi toured the region. Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh credited the party's performance to Mr. Gandhi's tour. "This [the results] is a direct impact of Rahul Gandhi continuing 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Ladakh last month," Mr. Ramesh said.

Though the NC-Congress had a "pre-poll alliance", they also fielded candidates against each other in what they described as "friendly contests". One "friendly contest" cost the alliance a seat in the Zanskar region. The BJP managed a narrow win, with a 177-vote margin, in the Buddhist-majority Stakchay Khangral constituency, where a total of 2,565 votes were cast. The BJP's winning candidate, Padma Dorjey, bagged 1,007 votes followed by Syed Hassan of the Congress with 830, and the NC's Ghulam Hussain with 479. If they had fought together, the NC-Congress combine could have bagged a winning 1,309 votes.

The BJP also won the Cha seat, thus snagging two out of three Buddhist-majority constituencies. The third such seat, Padum, was won by the NC. The BJP improved on its 2018 tally, when it won only a single seat. The BJP is unlikely to be too pleased with the results, given the fact that Ladakh has an MP from the party and the region has been directly ruled by the Centre since 2019. The senior BJP leaders Meenakshi Lekhi and Tarun Chugh camped in Kargil for campaigning. "Heartfelt congratulations to dedicated BJP karyakartas and sincere gratitude to every voter," Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP, said after the Stakchay Khangral result.

Video of man's body being burnt surfaces

It shows a man, in a black T-shirt and camouflage trousers, lying in a trench. The face looks bludgeoned and the body is on fire. It is not clear if the man was burnt alive.

A representative of a Kuki-Zo organisation said they were trying to ascertain the identity of the person as during the violence, five or six people from the community were said to have been burnt alive.

The authorities are yet to recover a large number of weapons and ammunition that were looted during the violence in the State. Around 4,000 weapons and lakhs of ammunition rounds were looted from the police armouries. On Sunday, the District Magistrate of Imphal East, as a "measure of emergency", ordered that the public was prohibited from taking out procession, rally, protest, unlawful gatherings, public meetings using loud speakers, and so on with immediate effect.

Sikkim flash flood: 32 bodies recovered; search continues

Corpses recovered include those of nine Army men; 78 people are missing in Pakyong district, 23 in Gangtok district, 15 in Mangan and six in Namchi; radars, drones and Army dogs have been deployed for the search operations, say officials

Press Trust of India
GANGTOK

Thirty-two bodies, including those of nine Army men, have been recovered so far from the slush and debris left behind by the flash flood on the Teesta river that devastated Sikkim, while the search continued for over 100 people who are still missing, officials said on Sunday.

The flash flood, which was triggered by a cloudburst in the early hours of Wednesday, has affected 41,870 people.

So far, 2,563 people have been rescued from different areas of the State, most of which have been cut off from the rest of the country, according to the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority.

Recovery efforts: A bus is covered in debris caused by flash floods after a lake burst in Rangpo, Sikkim on Sunday. REUTERS

'Radars, drones'

Search is on for 122 people who are still missing.

Seventy-eight people are missing in Pakyong district, 23 in Gangtok district, 15 in Mangan and six in Namchi, the authority said.

Radars, drones and Army dogs have been deployed for the search operations, officials said.

So far, 21 bodies have been recovered in Pakyong, six in Gangtok, four in Mangan and one in Namchi, they said.

Highway damaged

The National Highway 10, the lifeline of Sikkim, has been rendered unusable due to damage to the road surface and many bridges across the Teesta river.

The opening and widening process of the stretch between Rangpo and Singtam is in progress, they added.

Alternative routes to the State capital Gangtok are open via the east Sikkim district.

However, in north Sikkim, roads beyond Mangan are cut off, officials said.

Relief camps

The ITBP said 56 people were rescued in north Sikkim's Chungthang, one of the worst-affected areas in the flash flood. Among those rescued were 52 men and four women.

A total of 6,875 people have taken shelter in 30 relief camps set up across the State.

The disaster also damaged more than 1,320 houses and washed away 13 bridges in the four districts of the picturesque Himalayan State.

Victims of Balasore train accident to be cremated

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Four months after the dreadful train accident that left 296 persons dead and 1,100 injured in Odisha's Balasore district, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has begun the process of disposing of the remains of 28 victims, whose rightful claimants had failed to come forward to collect them.

The BMC authorities on Saturday issued a standard operating procedure for disposal of bodies lying in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar following approval of the Central Bureau of Investigation in the month of August. The corporation will make vehicles available for transporting bodies from the AIIMS to the cremation ground.

After the Director of AIIMS hands over the 28 unidentified bodies to BMC Health Officer, a record will be maintained. All the processes will be videographed and photographed.

Indian Air Force unveils new Ensign as it marks its 91st anniversary

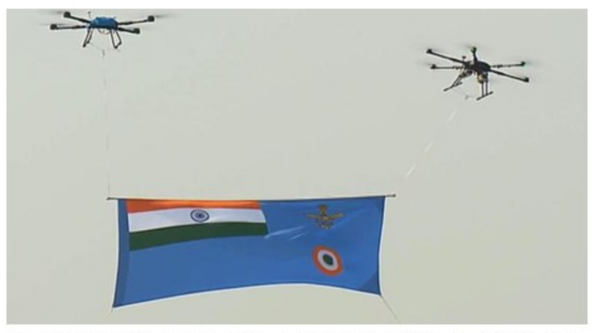
Dinakar Peri
PRAYAGRAJ

The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari, on Sunday unveiled a new Ensign for the force, as it marked its 91st anniversary, by the inclusion of the Air Force Crest in the top right corner of the Ensign, towards the fly side.

This year, the Air Force Day parade was held at the Air Force Station, Bamrauli in Prayagraj. The air display held in the afternoon on the banks of the Triveni Sangam, saw a few lakh people turn up to watch the aerial manoeuvres.

In a first, scaling up the degree of difficulty by a couple of notches, the Sarang helicopter display team has gone from a four-helicopter to a five-helicopter military display team.

In another first, the newly inducted C-295 transport aircraft made its maiden appearance, while the legacy MiG-21 Bison made what is likely its last appearance in an air display, prior to the planned phasing out by 2025.



The Indian Air Force unveiled its new Ensign at the annual Air Force Day parade at Prayagraj on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We have not only circumvented challenges but also turned those challenges into opportunities. The current geopolitical landscape has provided us an opportunity to reduce dependency on imports by developing indigenous capability," Air Chief said.

The theme for this year's Air Force Day was "IAF – air power beyond boundaries", which the Air chief said aptly reflected the "inherent global reach of air power and how air power will prove decisive in future conflicts".

This is the first Air Force Day Parade to be commanded by a woman officer, Group Captain Shaliza Dhami. She is also the first woman officer of the IAF to command a combat unit. The parade had an all-woman contingent of newly inducted Agniveer Vayu personnel. The parade also included a flight of Garud Commandos of the IAF for the first time, as the they completed 20 years of service. The Air chief presented Unit Citations to four IAF Units – 16 Squadron, 142 Helicopter Unit, 901 Signal Unit and 3 Base Repair Depot for their contribution to the service.

Explaining the new Ensign, a statement said the IAF Crest has the national symbol, the Ashoka lion, on the top with the words *Satyameva Jayate* in Devanagari below it. Below the Ashoka lion is a Himalayan eagle with its wings spread, denoting the fighting qualities of the IAF, it stated, adding, "A ring in light blue colour encircles the Himalayan eagle with the words 'Bharatiya Vayu Sena' and the motto of the IAF is inscribed below Himalayan eagle in golden Devanagari."

GST Council clears a few measures to boost foreign trade

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Nirmala Sitharaman

Amid the sustained slump in India's exports, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has cleared a few measures to boost foreign trade, including enabling tax credits for services exporters receiving payments in rupees, critical for trade with countries such as Iran and Russia that face global sanctions.

The government has been pushing for rupee-based trading arrangements with several countries to reduce the dependence on the U.S. dollar, and banks from over 20 nations have opened special rupee (INR) Vostro accounts with Indian banks to remit payments for their imports from India. However, many exporters of such services were being denied input tax credits under the GST regime as the norms required foreign currency receipts to recognise the 'export' status.

"The Council has recommended to issue a circular to clarify the admissibility of export remittances received in Special INR Vostro account, as permitted by the Reserve Bank of India, for the purpose of consideration of supply of services to qualify as export of services under the Integrated GST [IGST] Act, 2017," the Finance Ministry said in a statement after Saturday's meeting of the GST Council.

Some disputes

There were disputes arising from refund applications, where the GST officers would seek to deny the benefit on the ground that receipt of consideration in INR did not meet the condition prescribed for the purpose of qualifying as 'exports of services', explained Sanjay Chhabria, director, indirect tax at Nexdigm.

"This clarification will bring respite to the exporters whose refunds of GST were stuck for a long time on account of the disputes in respect of this particular aspect, and they were also being subjected to GST demands," said Saurabh Agarwal, tax partner at EY.

Relief for SEZ suppliers

Separately, the Council also decided to undo the effects of a July 31 notification that had made it difficult for firms supplying goods or services to special economic zones (SEZs) to claim tax refunds.

"With the explicit inclusion of such supplies for rebate, the ambiguity on this comes to a rest and helps prevent apprehended potential working capital concerns for domestic industry engaged in SEZ supplies," remarked Abhishek Jain, indirect tax head and partner at KPMG.

The Council has recommended issuance of a circular to clarify the place of supply treatment for services entailing transportation of goods in cases where the location of supplier or the location of recipient of services is outside India.

Army concludes 70 schemes under EP-4 worth ₹11,000 crore

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Army has completed the fourth tranche of Emergency Procurements (EP) undertaken between September 2022 and September 2023 with over 70 schemes concluded worth nearly ₹11,000 crore, according to defence sources who said they have been utilised to fill up "critical capability voids". The Indian Air Force has also concluded 64 contracts under EP-4 worth around ₹8,137 crore. In the earlier three tranches, the Army finalised 68 contracts worth approximately ₹7,000 crore.

Elaborating on the contracts concluded, the source said six or seven schemes worth ₹1,300 crores went for weapon systems, ₹1,300 crore was used across seven or eight projects for protective equipment, and nine to 10 schemes at about ₹1,500 crore related to Intelligence, Reconnaissance, and Surveillance. Another ₹2,000 crore was reserved for 10 projects focusing on drones and counter drones. Communication and non-communication equipment comprised about a dozen plus projects, absorbing approximately ₹1,800 crore, and lastly, an amount of ₹3,100 crore was used for 25 projects on survivability and training, the source stated.

Emergency financial powers were granted to the armed forces by the Defence Ministry for the first time after the 2016 Uri terror attack, followed by the 2019 Balakot air strikes and the 2020 standoff with China in Eastern Ladakh. Under this, the services could procure weapons systems up to ₹300 crore, on an "urgent basis without any further clearance to cut short the procurement cycle".

Retail inflation likely eased in September, but may be higher

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation is likely to have retreated below 6% in September after two months over the central bank's tolerance threshold, thanks to cooling prices for most essential commodities and food items, barring pulses that are seeing a sustained uptick in market prices.

Bank of Baroda (BoB) economists, who put out a monthly index on essential commodities' prices, expect consumer price rise last month to have dropped to 5.7% from 6.8% in August and a 15-month high of 7.4% in July. Food inflation stood at around 10% in August.

The National Statistical Office will release the Consumer Price Index numbers for September this Thursday.

Last Friday, the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India revised its average inflation projections for the July to September quarter from 6.2% to 6.4%. The upgraded estimate implies that the RBI expects September's retail inflation print to be between 4.9% and 5%.

"Broadly, price pressures assuaged in September, with the reversal of tomato, potato and onion prices being the primary driver. More importantly, the moderation in food prices is broad-based," said Dipanwita Mazumdar, economist at BoB, noting that the base effects from last September when inflation stood at 7.4% will also alleviate the headline inflation number to an extent.

Rice prices remained sticky, rising 11.1% in September compared to 11% in August, while onion inflation is expected to have sped to 29.5% from 17.6% in the previous month.

APPEAL

I am **Aruna G** aged 43 years, mother of twins (Girls) aged 3½ years. I have been diagonises with Redo Mitral Valve Replacement and advised for Angiography Test to undergo Complex Open Heart Surgery at The Madras Medical Mission, Chennai. The cost of surgery is Rs. 3,30,000/-. I am unable to afford this high cost. Your contribution will make a significant impact in my life. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Madras Medical Mission, Chennai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No. 60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT **(Please do not mention patient name on the cheque)**.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**

WWS

India can take back Sindhu too, says Yogi Adityanath

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on Sunday said that if Shri Ram Janmabhoomi can be reclaimed after 500 years, Sindhu (Indus) can also be brought back.

Mr. Adityanath, addressing a convention of the Sindhi community, stressed the need to inform the present generation of Sindhis about their history, pointing out that the community suffered the most during Partition and in its relation of Pakistan.

Describing the Sindhi community as an integral part of *Sanatana Dharma*, he appealed to people to take the pledge of "nation first" to prevent a repeat of a Partition-like catastrophe. Everyone should be prepared to give a befitting reply to anyone who plays with the unity and integrity of the nation, he added.

BJP leaders voice support for Israel; Cong., Left call for peace

BJP compares the violence to the terrorist attacks India had faced during the UPA regime; 'Never forgive, never forget,' party says; Congress says it has backed legitimate aspirations of Palestinians, while ensuring legitimate security interests of Israel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the war-like situation in Palestine and Israel worsened on Sunday, the ruling BJP and Opposition parties here took positions on the matter. While the BJP compared the situation in Israel to the terrorist attacks India had faced during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime, the Congress and the Left parties urged both sides to stop violence and work for a solution to the Palestinian question.

Several BJP leaders, through their social media handles, pledged support to Israel. The BJP, in an official video post on X, drew parallels between several attacks on India in the past.

"What Israel is facing today, India suffered between 2004-14. Never forgive, never forget...," the party said.

Smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City. Palestinian health officials reported scores of deaths from airstrike. AP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that he was deeply shocked by the news of terrorist attacks in Israel.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims and their families. We stand in solidarity with Israel at this difficult hour," said Mr. Modi.

The Congress said it condemns the "brutal attacks on the people of Israel". The party said it has always believed that the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for a life of self-respect, equality, and dignity must be fulfilled only through a process of dialogue and negotiations while ensuring the legitimate national security interests of the Israeli people.

"Violence of any type never provides a solution and must stop," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said.

'UN must intervene'

The Left parties too condemned the attacks and counter-attacks. "United Nations must enforce a stop to this. UN must ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, withdrawal of all Israeli illegal settlements and occupation of Palestinian lands and implement the 'Two Nation State' solution," said Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury. He added in another post on X that "Israeli aggression" unleashed by the most right-wing Netanyahu government against the Palestinians has claimed the lives of 248 people, including 40 children, so far this year.

The CPI expressed its serious concern on the escalation of the Palestine-Israel conflict blowing into "a bloody war" resulting in hundreds of deaths on both sides.

"We urge both the sides to exercise restraint to avoid further loss of precious lives," said CPI general secretary D. Raja.

Congress tries to win Brahmin vote ahead of polls in Haryana

Giving word: Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda during a 'Jan Milan' programme in Jind on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

In a bid to win the Brahmin vote ahead of the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the State next year, former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Sunday promised to appoint a Brahmin Deputy Chief Minister, restore job reservation for the community under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and set up a "strong" Brahmin commission if the Congress was voted to power.

In the Jat-dominated politics of Haryana, the Brahmin community, which constitutes around 12% of the State's population, has been recently trying to politically assert itself. At an event held a year ago, BJP Rohtak MP Arvind Sharma advocated the need for a Brahmin Chief Minister.

Stressing his family's four-generation-old relations with the community, Mr. Hooda, at a programme organised by the party's Badli MLA Kuldeep Vats, said when the Brahmin community held someone's hand, it supported them till the end. "Today every section of the State understands where Haryana was, and where it has reached now. This pain is in everyone's heart," Mr. Hooda stated.

Recalling the past

Mr. Hooda recalled that the Congress made a Brahmin the Chairperson of the Haryana Public Service Commission, the highest job-providing body in the State, and built its first university in the name of Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma.

He added that his party made Kuldeep Sharma, a Brahmin, the Vidhan Sabha Speaker and appointed Vice-Chancellors in universities from the community.

Later, Mr. Hooda, at a press conference in Jind on the occasion of Jan Milan programme, blamed the negative attitude of the present BJP-JJP government for the delay in the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal issue.

"The Supreme Court had given a clear verdict in favour of Haryana in February 2017. After this, in July 2020, the Supreme Court gave clear instructions to Punjab, Haryana and Central government, but the Haryana government kept wasting time by holding inconclusive meetings. Till now the role of BJP and BJP-JJP government has been negative in providing Haryana its rightful share of water," Mr. Hooda stated.

Cong. MP demands a Bihar-like caste census in Assam

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi has demanded a Bihar-like census of all castes and communities in Assam.

The Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP), a regional party formed after a movement against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), has also sought such a caste census.

"A census for different castes and communities in Assam, if done properly like Bihar, will help us know how much work we have to do for each community," Mr. Gogoi, who represents the Kaliabor Lok Sabha constituency, said at a function of a Tai-Ahom community in eastern Assam's Golaghat on October 7.

Rajasthan as well

"I am happy with Rajasthan pushing for a caste census. Bihar is already doing it. To know, where we have improved as a community, it is not possible to know without a census," he said, insisting that the data would make policy implementation more effective.

Samyukt Kisan Morcha condemns charges against farmers' protests in *NewsClick* FIR

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Condemning the first information report (FIR) registered by the Delhi Police against online news portal *NewsClick* and journalists associated with it, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Sunday said the charges in the FIR that the farmers' protests were held to "disrupt supplies and services essential to the life of community in India" were false and mischievous.

The Morcha, in a statement, "categorically rejected" all allegations made in the FIR against the farmers' movement. It also announced nationwide protests against the Union government for its renewed attack on the farmers' movement through the *NewsClick* FIR.

The FIR said that the 13-month-long farmers' movement was to "abet damage and destruction of property, cause huge loss to the Indian economy and create internal law and order problems, through illegal foreign funding".

The Morcha said the protests against the "anti-farmer and pro-corporate" laws and policies of the BJP government were peaceful. "No supply was disrupted by the farmers. No property was damaged by the farmers. No loss to the economy was caused by farmers. No law and order problem was created by the farmers. By violently stopping the farmers from exercising their democratic right of reaching the nation's capital, through barbed wire fencing, water cannons, lathi charge and digging up roads, it is the Union government that caused great inconvenience to the people of the nation and the farmers," the Morcha said.

It also cited the deaths of 735 farmers at various protest sites and the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, where four farmers and one journalist were murdered.

It alleged that funds from China had been received by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the PM Cares Fund and Gautam Adani in his business. "The Farmers' Movement succeeded, overcoming enormous hardship and with great sacrifice of the farmers. To belittle such sacrifice by alleging that the movement was foreign funded and acts of terrorism, betrays the arrogance, ignorance and anti-people mindset of the government," the Morcha said.

RLD demands HC Bench for western U.P. in Meerut

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), a party with its base in western Uttar Pradesh, on Sunday took a stand on the issue of separate 'Statehood' for the region by demanding a High Court Bench in Meerut. The party said BJP leader and Union Minister Sanjeev Balyan's statement on Statehood was caused by frustration and anxiety as the ruling party is losing ground in the politically crucial region.

"Who stopped the BJP and its leader who is demanding legislation for a separate State in Parliament. We (RLD) demand a High Court Bench in Meerut as Prayagraj is more than 700 km away," said Trilok Tyagi, RLD national general secretary.

The RLD leader added that the party did not want to react to the 'Statehood' demand by Mr. Balyan. "Such statements are result of frustration and anxiety as the BJP is losing ground in western U.P.,"he added.

Mr. Balyan recently at the International Jat Parliament in Meerut said that western U.P. should become a separate State and Meerut should become its capital, leading to an uproar with his own party disagreeing.

Muslim community is with us, says SP on Masood joining Cong.

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party (SP) on Sunday played down the return of Imran Masood, former MLA and influential Muslim face from Western Uttar Pradesh, to the Congress, adding the Muslim community was entirely with the SP and there was a wave in support of party president Akhilesh Yadav in the community. It said many leaders from other parties were joining the SP also as it is a natural process before polls.

"It is an internal matter of the Congress party, they are free to induct anyone. As far as the Muslim community is concerned, it is with the SP in huge numbers and likes the leadership of Akhilesh Yadav," said Rajeev Rai, the SP national spokesperson.

On asked if induction of new leaders complicate seat sharing in the India National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc of which both the SP and Congress are a part, the SP dismissed it. "It will have no impact on any seat-sharing negotiation," said Sunil Singh Yadav 'Sajan', a senior SP leader.

Mr. Masood, who won the 2007 Assembly polls from the Muzaffarabad seat as an Independent candidate but lost the last four elections, is still considered an influential face among the Muslim voters in west Uttar Pradesh's three Lok Sabha seats: Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar and Kairana. His rejoining the Congress is seen as an attempt by the party to make inroads into the community.

Imran Masood

'Stockist of hate'

The BJP dubbed Mr. Masood a stockist of 'hate' in Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's narrative of 'love' and harmony (*Mohabat Ki Dukaan*), hinting at the alleged controversial statement made by the former MLA against then BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi, while contesting the 2014 Lok Sabha from Saharanpur. "We are seeing how jubilant the Congress is after Imran Masood's joining. He is a stockist of hate in the *Mohabat Ki Dukaan* of Congress and Rahul Gandhi," said Rakesh Tripathi, U.P. BJP spokesperson.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Ernakulam Junction
TENDER NOTICE
No. 02-DCE-CN-ERS-OT-2023 Dated: 01.10.2023
Name of the work: Re-development of Ernakulam Junction Railway Station: Proposed Construction of Porta Cabin Type Gents and Ladies waiting hall between Platform No.1 and Officers Rest House. Tender Value : ₹ **31.11 Lakhs;** Completion Period of: **2 Months;** Date of Opening: **26.10.2023 at 15.00 hrs.**
Complete details & tender document will be available at **https:// www.ireps.gov.in**
Deputy Chief Engineer /I, (Construction), Ernakulam Junction
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai Egmore
Tender Notice No.
E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-06-2023-24
Dated: 05.10.2023
For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / General / Construction / Southern Railway / Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites E-Tender for the following work.
Name of work: Arakkonam - Electrical Locoshed - Augmentation of Infrastructure Facilities to Increase the Holding upto 175 Locos - Electrification of existing AOH Shed and Inspection Shed, Power supply arrangements for new Service building in Inspection Shed and AOH Shed and also Electrification of Extended AOH Shed at Electrical Locoshed Arakkonam; **1.** Period of completion: **6 Months; 2.** Approximate Cost of Work: ₹ **2,78,68,877.67/-; 3.** Cost of tender form: ₹ **Nil; 4.** Earnest Money deposit (EMD): ₹ **2,89,400**; **5.** Tender Closing Date & Time: **27.10.2023** at **11.00 AM; 6. Tender Opening Date & Time: 27.10.2023** at **11.30 AM**
Complete details can be seen on **www.ireps.gov.in**
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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TRIVANDRUM DIVISION (WORKS BRANCH)
E-TENDER NOTICE No. V / W / TVC / 25 / 2023, Dated: 06.10.2023
For and on behalf of the President of India the Divisional Railway Manager / Works Branch / Trivandrum Division, Trivandrum-14, invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice and Complete details are given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Sl. No.	Description	Approx. Value ₹ in lakh	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Period of Completion in Months
1	SSE/W/ERS Jurisdiction - Repairs to roof of service buildings and staff quarters to prevent leakage	213.28	256600	SIX
2	Repairs to Station approach road at PVRD station	51.13	102300	SIX
3	Provision of 20 person capacity lif at Railway Hospital / TVP	21.38	42800	FOUR
4	TVC Division - Instrumentation of Br. No. EAK-31 in ERS - ALLP - KYJ Section Temporary arrangements	33.08	66200	THREE
5	TVC Division - Proposed Replacement of existing steel girders with PSC slab for Br. No. 2387DN (4x12.19m) and Br. No. 2383DN (1x12.19m) in QLN-TVC section	269.49	284800	SIX
6	1) ERS - Essential repairs to platform surface including replacement of damaged slabs, repairs to trolley path etc. 2) Brightening up of platform shelters ERS, ERN, KUMM	73.68	147400	SIX
7	Construction of RPF Barracks at NCJ & CAPE	152.14	226100	EIGHT
8	Construction of RPF Barracks at KCVL & ALLP	154.18	227100	EIGHT
9	TVC Division - Proposed Replacement of existing steel girders with PSC slab for Br. No.128 Up (1x12.20m) and Br. No. 136 UP (1x12.20m) in ERS-KTYM-KYJ section	136.53	218300	SIX
10	1) Nagercoil Sub-division - Improvements to staff quarters including drainage and water supply improvements 2) PROVISION OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION ROOM AT HU-Nagercoil.	208.42	254200	TWELVE
11	ADEN/NCJ Sub-Division: Provision of Divyangjan facilities at Stations	360.83	330400	EIGHT
12	ADEN/TVC Sub-Division - Provision of Divyangjan facilities at Stations	136.80	218400	EIGHT
13	ADEN/QLN Sub-Division:-Provision of Divyangjan facilities at Stations	360.30	330200	EIGHT
14	Aluva-New upper class waiting hall, improvement to existing waiting halls & construction of new parcel office	225.20	262600	TWELVE
15	Repair and Maintenance of LCs in HAD - AMPA Section (PB No. 25/2020-21, AMPA - HAD Doubling)	25.76	51500	THREE
16	ZONE I-From KM 177.300 TO KM.217.000 (VAK INCL & TVP EXCLUSIVE) in Varkala P.way section	37.47	74900	NINE

Tender Closing date and time: Sl No.: 1 to 16 : 08.11.2023 at 11.00 hrs
Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken into account while submitting.
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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Department of MSME&T, Government of West Bengal
Shilpa Sadan, 4, Abanindranath Tagore Sarani (Camac Street), Kolkata - 700016
Expression of Interest (EOI) for Booking Space in Apparel Buying Hub at Paridhan Garment Park, Chingrighata, Kolkata
(EOI No.: 4302-MSMET-18011(99)/9/2018 dated 06/10/2023)
Notice inviting EOI with the details is uploaded on www.wbseps.com / www.wbmsme.gov.in / www.wbsidcl.in All interested bidders to kindly note that the applications/bids (Technical and Financial) are to be mandatorily submitted through the above mentioned portal only. Last date and time of submission of application will be on 06.11.2023 upto 3.00 p.m.
Sd/-
Joint Secretary to the Government of West Bengal
ICA-T20874(3)/2023

DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUMS
406, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008
Website: www.govtmuseumchennai.org
E-mail: govtmuse@tn.gov.in
The Assistant Director (Admin), Department of Museums, invites RFP for providing consultancy services for the following projects:

Sl. No.	Description	Pre-bid Meeting	Last date & time for Submission of RFP	Opening of RFP
1	The Chola Museum in Thanjavur	25.10.2023 at 11.00 AM	09.11.2023 up to 3.00 PM	09.11.2023 at 4.00 PM
2	Independence Museum in Chennai	27.10.2023 at 11.30 AM	15.11.2023 up to 3.00 PM	15.11.2023 at 4.00 PM

For further details please visit: **www.govtmuseumchennai.org**
To apply in e-Tender please visit: **https://etenders.gov.in**
DIPR/5461/Tender/2023
Assistant Director (Admin)
Government Museum, Chennai

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
Water Resources Department
O/o. the Chief Engineer, Hydrology
e-Procurement Tender Notice
Online tenders are invited through e-procurement portal for the following works.
1) **NIT No.** NHP/APSW/RTDAS-3/02/2023-24, Dated: 09-10-2023.
Name of work: Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of RTDAS equipment in Andhra Pradesh (Phase-III) for Andhra Pradesh Surface Water under National Hydrology Project (NHP).
2) **PID & Package No.:** PID: 12853 & Package No.: NHP-2023-2024-APSW-226733.
3) Start/Last date/Time of Tender document schedules available: From **09-10-2023** at **11:00 AM** to **09-11-2023** upto **3:00 PM.**
4) Start/Last date/Time for submission of tenders: From **24-10-2023** at **11:00 AM** to **09-11-2023** upto **3:30 PM.**
5) Pre-Bid Meeting: **17-10-2023** at **11:00 AM** onwards.
6) Bid Opening Date, Time and Place: **09-11-2023** from **4:00 PM** onwards O/o. Chief Engineer, Hydrology, Vijayawada.
7) Address of the Superintending Engineer concerned: Superintending Engineer, O/o. Chief Engineer, Hydrology, Water Resources Department, H.No.76-16-16, 2nd Floor, Lane beside Reliance Smart, Bhavanipuram, Vijayawada, A.P.-520012.
Interested authorized / reputed Bidders may obtain the tender schedule from **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** Contact: **0866-2972698, 9949556201, Email: andhrasw@ap.gov.in**
DIPR 2394PP/CL, Dt: 06-10-2023
Sd/- Chief Engineer, SDSO & Hydrology, Vijayawada

INBRIEF

CBI raids houses of Bengal Minister and Trinamool MLA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday conducted searches at 12 locations, including at the residences of West Bengal Urban Development Minister Firhad Hakim and Trinamool Congress MLA Madan Mitra, in connection with the investigation into irregularities in the recruitment made by civic bodies in West Bengal. Searches were conducted at the residence of Mr. Hakim in the Chetla area in Kolkata, Mr. Mitra's residence in Bhawanipore and Kamarhati and other locations. The agency officials also questioned Mr. Hakim and Mr. Mitra about the recruitment scam. The Calcutta High Court in April had directed the CBI to probe the irregularities in the recruitment.

1,182 members of extremist groups surrender in Assam

Members of eight Adivasi extremist groups, including three factions of as many outfits, surrendered before Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in Guwahati on Sunday. A total of 1,182 members of all the groups and their factions laid down their arms. The extremist groups are the Adivasi Cobra Military of Assam, All Adivasi National Liberation Army, Birsa Commando Force, Adivasi People's Army, and the Santhal Tiger Force. Officials said the extremists deposited 304 firearms, including AK series and INSAS rifles, 1,460 rounds of ammunition, grenades, improvised explosive devices, RDX, and TNT.

2 Indian trainee pilots killed in plane crash in Canada

Two trainee pilots from India are among three persons killed when a small plane crashed in Canada's British Columbia province, according to media reports. Abhay Gadru and Yash Ramugade, both 25, from Mumbai, were in the small twin-engine light aircraft – a piper PA-34 Seneca – which crashed on Friday near the local airport in Chilliwack city, about 100 km east of Vancouver. The plane crashed behind a motel near the airport, killing the pilot and all on board, Sergeant Pete Healey from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was quoted as saying by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. PTI

22 drown during Jivitputrika festival; Nitish announces aid

Twenty-two people drowned while bathing in rivers and ponds in Bihar in separate incidents, officials said on Sunday. The incidents took place within 24 hours when a majority of them were bathing for the Jivitputrika festival, they said. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced an ex gratia of ₹4 lakh each for the next of the kin of the deceased. "Five drowned in Bhojpur, four in Jehanabad, three each in Patna and Rohtas, two each in Darbhanga and Nawada, and one each in Kaimur, Madhepura and Aurangabad in the last 24 hours," according to a statement. In Bhojpur, five girls and young women drowned near the Bahiyara Ghat of the Sone river on Saturday. PTI

ISRO performs trajectory correction for Aditya-L1

The spacecraft is headed to Lagrangian-1 point, which lies between the sun-earth line; latest manoeuvre marked the beginning of Aditya-L1's 110-day journey expected to end in January

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has performed a trajectory correction manoeuvre on the Aditya-L1 spacecraft which is headed to the Lagrangian-1 (L1) point between sun and earth.

The space organisation on Sunday said the manoeuvre was performed on October 6, and the spacecraft was in good condition.

"The spacecraft is healthy and on its way to Sun-Earth L1. A Trajectory Correction Manoeuvre (TCM), originally provisioned, was performed on October 6, 2023, for about 16 seconds," the ISRO said.

The space agency said the manoeuvre was performed to correct the trajectory evaluated after tracking the Trans-Lagrangian Point 1 Insertion (TL1I) manoeuvre performed on September 19.

Right path: On September 19, the ISRO carried out the Trans-Lagrangian Point 1 Insertion manoeuvre to send it to L1. ANI

"It was needed to correct the trajectory evaluated after tracking the Trans-Lagrangian Point 1 Insertion (TL1I) manoeuvre performed on September 19, 2023. TCM ensures that the spacecraft is on its intended path towards the Halo orbit insertion around L1," the space agency said.

On September 19, the ISRO carried out the TL1I manoeuvre to send it towards L1. The TL1I manoeuvre marked the beginning of Aditya-L1's 110-day journey towards the L1 point, which lies between the sun-earth line.

L1 is about 1.5 million km from earth and the distance of L1 from earth is approximately 1% of the earth-sun distance.

India's first solar observatory mission, Aditya-L1, was launched on September 2 by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The ISRO said that as Aditya-L1 continues to move ahead, the magnetometer payload will be turned on again within a few days.

The magnetometer payload is developed at the Laboratory for Electro Optics Systems, Bengaluru, and is capable of measuring interplanetary magnetic fields at the L1 point. Aditya-L1 is expected to arrive at the L1 point by January.

Students can choose to take Board exams once or twice a year

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Union Education Dharmendra Pradhan said on Sunday that students could choose to appear for the Class 10 and 12 Board examinations once or twice every year. Twin exams are being introduced as an option to reduce stress among students caused by the fear of having only opportunity, he said.

Under the New Curriculum Framework (NCF) announced by the Union Ministry of Education in August, Board examinations will be held at least twice a year to ensure that students have enough time and opportunity to perform well. They will get the option to retain the best score.

Asked how the move will make Board exams "low stakes" as proposed in the new National Education Policy (NEP), Mr. Pradhan said, "The students will have an option of appearing for the exams twice a year just as the engineering entrance exam JEE. They can choose the best score. But it will be completely optional, no compulsion."

"The students often get stressed thinking they would lose a year, their chance was gone or that they could have performed better. The stress caused by the fear of [only] single opportunity will be reduced," he said in an interview. If students feel their preparations are complete and are fully satisfied with the score in one set of exams, he or she can choose not to appear for the next exams, he said, adding that nothing will be made mandatory. Mr. Pradhan said the issue of "dummy schools" could not be ignored. NEET and JEE aspirants enrol themselves in schools in their home States and move to Kota for coaching. They do not attend school and directly appear for the exams.

SC flags need for a dependable code of police investigation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The observations came after the court acquitted 3 accused in a 2013 kidnap and murder case

The Supreme Court (SC), in a recent judgment, has highlighted the need for a "consistent and dependable code of investigation" to prevent lapses in police probes leading to the guilty getting acquitted on technical grounds.

"It is high time, perhaps, that a consistent and dependable code of investigation is devised with a mandatory and detailed procedure for the police to implement and abide by during the course of their investigation so that the guilty do not walk free on technicalities, as they do in most cases in our country," a three-judge Bench led by Justice B.R. Gavai observed in a judgment.

The observations came in a judgment acquitting three persons accused in the kidnap and murder of a teenager in 2013 due to chinks found in the police investigation. Two of the men had been awarded the death penalty by the lower court, but the apex court set it aside. The three accused were instead given the benefit of doubt.

"The manner in which the police tailored their investigation, with complete indifference to the essential norms in proceeding against the accused and in gathering evidence; leaving important leads unchecked and glossing over other leads that did not suit the story that they had conceived; and, ultimately, in failing to present a cogent, conceivable and foolproof chain of events," the apex court noted.

Malimath report

The court took a page from the 2003 report by Justice V.S. Malimath Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System, which emphasised that the "successful prosecution of the guilty depends on a thorough and careful search for truth and collection of evidence which is both admissible and probative".

Prey base, habitat dictate Asiatic wild dog-tiger coexistence: study

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Overlapping prey availability or habitat suitability could dictate a positive association between dholes and tigers, facilitating coexistence or even cooperative behaviours between the two species of carnivores, a new study has found.

The dhole or Asiatic wild dog (*Cuon alpinus*) is the only endangered wild pack-living canid in the tropical Indian forests and is considered at high risk of extinction.

The study through camera traps by Urjit Bhatt and Salvador Lyngdoh at Manas National Park in Assam also revealed that the diurnal activity of the dholes had the highest temporal overlap with leopards and the lowest with clouded leopards.

The two scientists are associated with the Department of Landscape Level Planning and Management at the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India. Their paper, titled "Do dholes segregate themselves from their sympatrids? Habitat use and carnivore co-existence in the tropical forest", was published in the latest issue of *Mammalian Biology*, a peer-reviewed international scientific journal edited by the German Society for Mammalian Biology.

The study revealed that the diurnal activity of the dholes had the highest temporal overlap with leopards. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sympatric refers to animals, plant species, and populations within the same or overlapping geographical areas.

The scientists studied the dholes in three phases from April 2017 to May 2019 in the 500-sq.km Manas National Park.

Fragmented population

Operating in packs of five to 10 – larger groups of more than 30 were observed in 2004 – dholes were once widespread across southern and eastern Asia.

Factors such as habitat loss, declining prey availability, persecution, disease, and interspecific competition have contributed to the ongoing fragmentation of its populations.

The global population of adult dholes, now classified as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List, is estimated to be between 949 and 2,215.

"We aimed to assess the relative abundance index, habitat use and factors (space and time) influencing dhole co-existence with other sympatric carnivores in Manas National Park," the study said.

The hypotheses included conflict with humans on the periphery of protected areas as the primary threat to dholes, higher habitat utilisation where small-medium prey species such as rodents, hares, and rhesus macaques are found, and a negative relationship between dhole habitat use and other large carnivores.

"However, our study findings revealed a surprising positive relationship between dhole habitat use and tiger, rejecting the habitat exclusivity hypothesis. This unexpected result challenges the assumption of antagonistic interactions between these two species and suggests a more complex ecological dynamic," the study said.

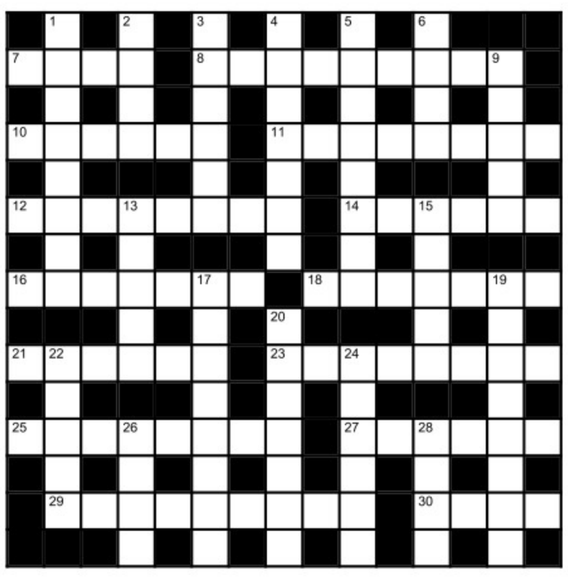
"The positive association could be attributed to factors such as overlapping prey availability or habitat suitability, which may facilitate co-existence or even cooperative behaviours between dholes and tigers," the study said, suggesting further research to unravel the mechanisms underlying this positive relationship.

TH CROSSWORD + 13990

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Prohibits watering holes (4)
8 Nude relative consumes hot roll before commencement of dinner (9)
10 Absorbent orb's lost and missing (6)
11 General, after drinking a bit of liquor, produces material capable of causing bodily harm (8)
12 Organise vocals in forerunner of some East European languages (8)
14 Time. (6)
16 Mix drug with Yankee's drink (7)
18 Danger signal often seen in Russia or China (3,4)
21 Tamil actor gets small residence for Jobs (6)
23 Extraordinary rum label! It may save you from rain... (8)
25 Circuit around street having carbon monoxide, for example, may result in final breath (4,4)
27 Girl with circular land unit measuring around 2400 square feet (6)
29 Perhaps, Peter Scot is very highly classified (3-6)
30 Keen part of Kannada video (4)

Down

1 Lakh danced around palindromic music group in a kind of mysticism (8)
2 Land surrounded by water? Misleading to some extent... (4)
3 King's first love is surrounded by horrible aunts (6)
4 Superficial wound from the very beginning (7)
5 Lac poles break and fall down (8)
6 Writer donating gold becomes god (4)
9 Because of song for two with love (3,2)
13 Counsellor releases advertisement for Sir Lancelot's face saving device (5)
15 Hunt for gun (5)
17 Trapped English players with devilish dare (8)
19 At last saint left book on island's legendary land (8)
20 Stay and consume drink (7)
22 Earth shaking core? (5)
24 Chance upon model wearing neck adornment in capital (6)
26 Antelope's hat? (4)
28 Operation by criminal to get gem (4)

SUDOKU

3					1			
		4		7			2	
			4				9	3
		9	5				1	6
				3				
2	8				7	5		
7	6				4			
	5			2		9		
			3					8

No.SS5943 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

S	M	I	D	G	E	O	N		G	A	N	D	H	I
A		N		R		U		C		U		E		N
T	R	A	C	E		S	C	H	E	D	U	L	E	D
I		D		E		T		O		I		H		O
N	O	V	E	N	A		S	C	Y	T	H	I	A	N
		A				D		O		I				E
C	A	N	O	E		O	N	L	O	O	K	E	R	S
A		C		N		G	A		N		X		I	
P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T		S	A	C	R	A
T				G		A		E				H		
I	N	T	I	M	A	T	E		O	F	F	A	L	S
V		I		A		D		O		A		N		I
A	L	B	A	T	R	O	S	S		I	N	G	O	T
T		E		I		G		L		L		E		A
E	N	T	I	C	E		C	O	N	S	I	D	E	R

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	9	6	7	1	3	2	5	4
2	4	7	6	9	5	3	8	1
3	5	1	8	4	2	6	7	9
4	1	5	2	6	8	9	3	7
9	6	3	4	5	7	1	2	8
7	8	2	1	3	9	4	6	5
6	3	8	9	7	1	5	4	2
1	2	4	5	8	6	7	9	3
5	7	9	3	2	4	8	1	6

FAITH

Yudhishthira's list

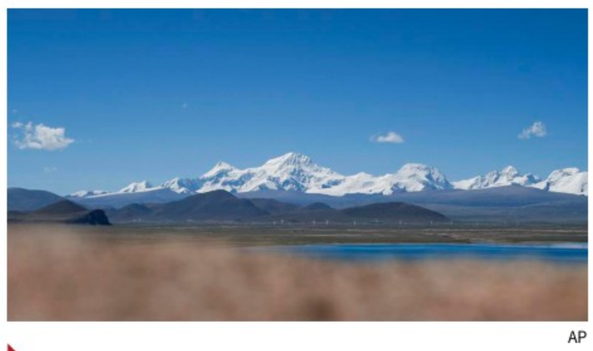
Yama comes to Yudhishthira's palace in the guise of a poor man. He asks the guard to inform Yudhishthira of his arrival. Yudhishthira is in the middle of his daily aradhana, and does not come out at once to meet Yama. But he does come after Yama questions the guard if Yudhishthira is right to delay help to a subject. Yama asks Yudhishthira who may be considered the gravest among sinners. And Yudhishthira gives an elaborate reply, said Velukkudi Krishnan, in a discourse.

He says that one who does not provide food to a hungry man who turns up at his doorstep is a sinner. He who does not look after his parents in their old age when their health is deteriorating is a sinner. If a thirsty animal is making its way towards a water source and someone prevents it from quenching its thirst, then he becomes a sinner. If a man weds a virtuous girl and then abandons her, he becomes a sinner. He who promises a gift but goes back on his word is a sinner. Yudhishthira continues telling Yama about who are the major sinners in this world. He says that if a man gives generously to others but expects the recipients to sing his praises then he too is a sinner.

He who prevents someone from giving a gift to another is a sinner. This point made by Yudhishthira reminds one of the fate of Sukracharya.

BEIJING

2 killed, 2 missing after avalanche hits Tibet's Mt. Shishapangma



AP

American mountaineer Anna Gutu and a Nepalese guide Mingmar Sherpa were confirmed dead on Sunday after avalanches struck the slopes of a Tibetan mountain, while two others remained missing, according to Chinese media reports. The avalanches struck Tibet's Mount Shishapangma on Saturday at 8,000 metres in altitude. AP

YANGON

Myanmar SC rejects appeals by Suu Kyi against graft convictions

AFP

The Supreme Court in military-ruled Myanmar has rejected appeals against six corruption convictions for the jailed former leader Aung San Suu Kyi, according to media reports. Ms. Suu Kyi, in detention since a 2021 coup, is appealing dozens of convictions for crimes ranging from treason to violations of the telecom law. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES

California Governor vetoes Bill which bans caste discrimination

AP

Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed a Bill on Saturday that would have made California the first U.S. state to outlaw caste-based discrimination. Mr. Newsom called the Bill "unnecessary," and that California "already prohibits discrimination based on other characteristics". AP

LUXEMBOURG

Prime Minister Xavier Bettel seeks a new term to head Luxembourg

AP

Officials have started counting results for Sunday's parliamentary elections in Luxembourg that will determine the fate of the three-party coalition led by Prime Minister Xavier Bettel. If Mr. Bettel's DP party and his coalition parties come out the strongest again, he will be in pole position to lead another government. AP

Biden orders U.S. ships, warplanes to move closer to Israel, sends munitions

A major supplier of arms to Israel, the U.S. has moved quickly to affirm its backing by sending *USS Gerald R. Ford*; Blinken says the motivation for Hamas's latest attack may have been disrupting potential normalising of Israel-Saudi Arabia ties

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden ordered U.S. ships and warplanes to move closer to Israel in a show of support on Sunday, while sending fresh military aid after attacks by the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

The Pentagon said it was sending the aircraft carrier *USS Gerald R. Ford* and its accompanying warships to the eastern Mediterranean, while boosting fighter aircraft squadrons in the region.

The United States, a major supplier of arms to Israel, has moved quickly to affirm its backing for Israel after Saturday's surprise attack from the Gaza Strip, vowing "rock solid" support and warning other parties to stay out of the conflict.

'More to follow'

Mr. Biden spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and "conveyed that additional assistance for the Israeli Defence Forces is now on its way to Israel with more to follow over the coming days," the White House said.

The U.S. President further "pledged his full support for the Government and people of Israel in the face of an unprecedented and appalling assault by Hamas terrorists."

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said part of the motivation for Hamas' latest attack on Israel may have been disrupting a potential normalising of Israel-Saudi Arabia ties.

The *USS Gerald R. Ford* and its 5,000 sailors and deck of warplanes will be accompanied by cruisers and destroyers. AP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last month he believed his country was on the cusp of peace with Saudi Arabia, predicting it could reshape West Asia.

Saudi Arabia, the home of Islam's two holiest shrines, has long insisted on the Palestinians' right to statehood as a condition of recognising Israel – something that many members of Mr. Netanyahu's nationalist religious coalition have long resisted.

China said on Sunday it was "deeply concerned" by the weekend's dramatic escalation of violence between Israel and the Palestinians, urging all sides to show "calm".

Dozens held hostage

The leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group says militants in Gaza are holding dozens of Israeli captives, including more than 30 held by his group.

Ziad Nakhaleh said on Sunday that the captives will not be released until all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are set free.

Iran's Raisi supports Palestinian self-defence

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

President Ebrahim Raisi said on Sunday that Iran supports the Palestinians' right to self-defence and warned Israel must be held accountable for endangering the region, a day after Hamas attacked Israel.

"The Zionist regime (Israel) and its supporters are responsible for endangering the security of nations in the region, and they must be held accountable in this matter."

He urged Muslim governments to "support the Palestinian nation" while praising "resistance" efforts by Hamas and Islamic Jihad as well as in countries including Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. Mr. Raisi had spoken earlier with leaders of Hamas, official media said.

Two Israeli tourists, one Egyptian dead in Alexandria shooting

Agence France-Presse
CAIRO

The policeman fired 'at random' at an Israeli tour group using 'his personal weapon', source says

Two Israeli tourists and one Egyptian were killed on Sunday by a policeman in Egypt, local media and Israeli authorities said, as war rages for a second day between the neighbouring country and Hamas.

The policeman fired "at random" at an Israeli tour group visiting Alexandria using "his personal weapon", the state-affiliated private television *Extra News* said quoting a security source.

A fourth person was wounded and the policeman was "immediately arrested", it added.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry confirmed the deaths in a statement.

"This morning during a visit of Israeli tourists in Alexandria, Egypt, a local opened fire at them, murdering two Israeli citizens and their Egyptian guide," it reads.

The deaths come as fighting rages after Palestinian militants on Saturday launched a multi-pronged attack on Israel.

Egypt was the first Arab country to forge a peace deal with Israel in 1979, and has long served as a key intermediary between Israel and the Palestinians. However, despite the diplomatic relations, Israel remains largely unpopular among Egyptians.

Earthquake death toll rises to 2,000 as rescuers search flattened Afghan villages

Agence France-Presse
HERAT

The toll from a series of earthquakes in western Afghanistan rose sharply again on Sunday to more than 2,000, with nearly 10,000 injured, as rescue workers dug through razed villages for vanishing signs of life.

More than 1,300 homes were toppled when Saturday's magnitude 6.3 quake – followed by eight strong aftershocks – jolted hard-to-reach areas 30 km northwest of the provincial capital of Herat, according to officials.

In rural Zinda Jan district, dozens of households were reduced to jumbles of broken masonry, where makeshift rescue teams dug trenches in the hope of unearthing survivors.

"Our people witnessed an unprecedented earthquake," said Disaster Management Ministry spokesperson Mullah Janan Sayeq, putting the number of dead at 2,053 and injured at 9,240 across 13 villages.

Sudden jolt: Afghan men searching for victims after an earthquake in Herat province of western Afghanistan on Sunday. REUTERS

"For the treatment of the victims, we are doing our best," he told pressperson. One further aftershock of magnitude 4.2 hit the same area around 7.00 a.m. on Sunday morning, according to the United States Geological Survey.

Most rural homes in Afghanistan are made of sun-fired mud bricks built around wooden support poles, with little in the way of modern steel reinforcement. Multi-generational extended families generally live under the same roof, meaning disasters like this can devastate local communities.

Taliban halt consular aid at two Afghan embassies

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

The Taliban are suspending consular services at two Afghan embassies, London and Vienna, over their lack of transparency and cooperation with authorities in Kabul, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Sunday.

Some countries retain an active diplomatic mission in Afghanistan, including Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar, and China, but the international community remains wary of officially recognising the Taliban as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan.

The suspension of consular services at the two embassies is with immediate effect, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Abdul Qahar Balkhi said. The services affected include the issue and extension of passports and visas.

Dozen, including infant, wounded in overnight attacks on south Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russian shelling on residential areas of Kherson in south Ukraine overnight wounded almost a dozen people including nine-month-old baby, local authorities said on Sunday.

Ukraine took back the regional capital of Kherson in November 2022, but the southern city remains within reach of Russian fire.

The aerial view of a destroyed cafe after a Russian rocket attack in the village of Hroza in Ukraine, on Sunday. AP

"Kherson experienced another terrible night" as Russian forces "repeatedly shelled the city and settlements," regional Governor Oleksandr Prokudin said.

"Eleven residents were injured. A 27-year-old woman and her nine-month-old daughter were hospitalised in moderate condition," he added.

Mr. Prokudin posted a video showing a residential building with windows and walls shattered over several floors. Among the wounded was a 33-year-old Red Cross medic who was hospitalised.

There were 59 attacks recorded over the Ukrainian-controlled part of the Kherson region, he said.

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(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
O&M Circle Office, Chikmagalur -577101, Ph: 08262-233313
CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No: MESCOM/SEE/O&M/CKM/EE/AEE/AE/2023-24/I/60201/2023 Date: 22.09.2023
TENDER NOTIFICATION
MESCOM invites tender for the work of:
Providing HT Link Line from 66/11kv Muss Lingadahalli to Sihi Health Care Centre Lingadahalli Road to bifurcate load of F7 - Emmedoddi feeder in Birur Section, Birur Sub Division, Kadur Division.
The bids will be received through Electronic Tendering Mode only. The details of tender notification can be obtained by logging on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 09.10.2023. Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.)., O&M Circle Chikmagaluru.
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CIN- U91110RJ1961SGC001118
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
File NoF8(21) RSIC/EIS/ICDJPR/2023-24. Date:
UBN No. RSI2324SLOB00021
RSIC invites online Bids for selection of **"Strategic Business promoter to Equip, Operate, Manage & Transfer Business Services At ICD Jaipur from the eligible and experienced bidders" up to 5.00 PM dated 25.10.2023.**
Other details / terms and condition of the bid may be seen on the procurement portal (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state.
The approximate value of the procurement is INR 20 Crores.
UBN RSI2324SLOB00021
Raj.Samwad/C/23/11113 Managing Director

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
O & M Zone, "Vidyuth Bhavana", MRS Colony, Shivamogga - 577203
Ph: 08182-220445/446. CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No: CEE-SZ/SEE(O)/AEE(O)/JE(T)-2/2023-24/1238 Date: 26.09.2023
TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL -2)
MESCOM invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only from registered suppliers for Printing & Supply of Registers and Stationaries required at various offices coming under jurisdiction of O & M Shivamogga Zone.
For detailed information and to participate in the tender please access the tendering website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 09.10.2023. Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Electy.,), O & M Zone, Shivamogga
For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.: SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-2/F-76(10)/23-24/5359-60 Date: 07.10.2023
TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)
KPTCL invites bid against Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-2/23-24/EPR-05 Dt:06.10.2023 for the works of **"Repair and Reconditioning of faulty 20MVA, 66/11kV class, APEX make, Sl. No.: T-903/07 Power Transformer failed at 66/11kV Kengeri Sub-station, BMAZ North Circle, Bengaluru on total turnkey basis on Percentage tender basis".**
The detailed tender notification regarding the subject can be got by logging on or after **10.10.2023** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper link 'e-procurement-KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ North Circle, Ground Floor, KPTCL Office Complex, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.
Ph: 080-22386686-85

INDUSIND BANK LTD.
1-10-72, 3rd floor, Ashoka Janardhana Chambers, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016, Ph: (040) 40916229
E-AUCTION SALE PROCLAMATION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002
Sale of immovable asset under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act).
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described secured asset is mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken on by the Authorised Officer of M/s. IndusInd Bank Ltd. (the secured creditor). The Property will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 10/11/2023** for recovery of **Rs.3,50,47,042.32/- (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Forty Two Rupees and Paisa Thirty Two Only as on 31.08.2023** with further interest at the contractual rate and costs, charges and expenses due to IndusInd Bank Ltd., from the **borrower Inch Furniture , Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors : Mr. G Balaji, Mr. Vinodh Gurusamy, Mr. Krishnappa Gopal, Mrs. Bhavana Balaji, Mrs. R. Sankari**
Description of Immovable properties : All the piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Flat No. G-1 and , Present Municipal No.62/19/G-1, P.I.D. No. 36-78-19/G-1, Ground Floor with super built up area of 1600 Square Feet and one car parking space in the basement and 500 square feet of undivided share in the property bearing site No.62, Present municipal No.62/19, situated at 2nd main road, the national housing co-operative society layout, Kempapura Agrahara Village, now Prasanth Nagar, ward no.36, Bangalore, measuring East to West (80 + 81.03)/2 feet and North to South 50 feet, measuring all 374.294 square meters and **bounded on the;**East by: 40 feet wide road,West by: Site Nos.67 & 68,North by: Site No.61,South by: Site No.63.
All the piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Flat No. F-1, Present Municipal No.62/19-2/F-1, P.I.D. No. 36-78-19-2/F-1, First Floor with super built up area of 1600 Square Feet and one car parking space in the basement and 500 square feet of undivided share in the property bearing site No.62, Present municipal No.62/19, situated at 2nd main road, the national housing co-operative society layout, Kempapura Agrahara Village, now Prasanth Nagar, ward no.36, Bangalore, measuring East to West (80 + 81.03)/2 feet and North to South 50 feet, measuring all 374.294 square meters and **bounded on the;**East by: 40 feet wide road,West by: Site Nos.67 & 68,North by: Site No.61,South by: Site No.63.
Rs.3,02,60,000/- (Rupees Three Crore Two Lakhs Sixty Thousand Only)
Rs.30,26,000/- (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand only)
Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)

Mode of Auction	E-AUCTON
Inspection of Property	20/10/2023 between 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.

Contact Person and Phone No : Mr. Jansi Rao Mob. 9886090570, Mr. Chakradhari Shubham 9304376755 and Authorised Officer Mr.Varadaraj Mob: 9966078652 vardaraj.devaraj@indusind.com.
Last date for submission of Bid (E-auction) : 09/11/2023 up to 04:00 PM
This publication is also a Thirty Days (30) notice to the aforementioned borrower/guarantors under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditors Website i.e, https://www.indusindbank.com, regarding E-Auction/sale of respective property and other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the E –Auction. Bidders may also visit the website https://www.bankeauctions.com.
Place: Bangalore, Date: 05/10/2023 Sd/-Authorised Officer, Indusind Bank Limited

INDUSIND BANK LTD.
1-10-72, 3rd floor, Ashoka Janardhana Chambers, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016, Ph: (040) 40916229
E-AUCTION SALE PROCLAMATION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002
Sale of immovable asset under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act).
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described secured asset is mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken on by the Authorised Officer of M/s. IndusInd Bank Ltd. (the secured creditor). The Property will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 27/10/2023** for recovery of **Rs.1,07,21,048.30/- (Rupees One Crore Seven Lakhs Twenty One Thousand Forty Eight and Paisa Thirty Only) as on 31.08.2023** with further interest at the contractual rate and costs, charges and expenses due to IndusInd Bank Ltd., from the **borrower M/s. Safa Retail, Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors : 1) Mr. Akhil Ahmed, 2) Mrs. BatulaKouser**
Description of Immovable properties : All the piece and parcel of the property bearing site No.136, formed in converted Sy No.46, Old Katha No.410, Assessment No. 304, New V.P Katha No.229, as per BBMP records Katha No. 833, situated at Meenakshi Layout, KalenaAgrahara village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under BBMP Limits, measuring East to West: 20 Feet, North to South: 80 Feet, in all measuring 1600 Sq. Feet and **bounded on the:** East by : Private Property, West by : Vacant Place, North by : Road,South by : Private Property.
Rs.93,60,000/- (Rupees Ninety Three Lakhs Sixty Thousand Only)
Rs.9,36,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand only)
Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)

Mode of Auction	E-AUCTON
Inspection of Property	20/10/2023 between 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.

Contact Person and Phone No : Mr. Jansi Rao Mob. 9886090570, Mr. Chakradhari Shubham 9304376755 andAuthorised Officer Mr.Varadaraj Mob: 9966078652 vardaraj.devaraj@indusind.com.
Last date for submission of Bid (E-auction) : 26/10/2023 up to 04:00 PM
This publication is also a Fifteen Days (15) notice to the aforementioned borrower/guarantors under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditors Website i.e, https://www.indusindbank.com, regarding E-Auction/sale of respective property and other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the E –Auction. Bidders may also visit the website https://www.bankeauctions.com.
Place: Bangalore, Date: 05/10/2023 Sd/-Authorised Officer, Indusind Bank Limited

ASKUS

Vidya Bala

Q My husband and I reside in Surrey, British Columbia, and save $700 CAD a month. We are eager to embark on a journey of financial planning and investment. Can you provide us with insights on how to begin this journey?
As we are an Indian-origin couple living in Canada, we are uncertain on whether we should save and invest our money here in Canada or consider options in India. Are there specific advantages or considerations we should be aware of regarding the locations?
SONIA AND RAMAN

A Please start reading up on the basics of personal finance and goal-based investing. Do this after taking a decision on where you plan to invest. You need to have some idea on whether you plan to reside in Canada for long (or permanently) or just for some years. If it is the latter, then you can invest in India. Otherwise, please seek a financial planner's help in Canada and start investing there. The reason is there are very few options - outside of stocks, PMS - for an NRI from U.S. /Canada for India investment products. For example, many mutual funds do not have option for U.S. /Canada NRIs to invest due to the regulatory hassles of filing to the securities board in these countries (the few MFs who allow often make it hard to get it started). Similarly, many government options are not available for NRIs in general. So, your options remain NRE deposits in banks besides direct stock investing and using services like PMS (portfolio management services). So, kindly consult a planner in the place where you plan to settle down. Do not be misled by products sold by bank relationship managers. They may not even be the best for your situation.

Q I am 31 and a State government staff earning a monthly net of ₹65,000. I am now investing ₹40,000 a month in four mutual funds. Two with monthly investment of ₹10,000 each are equity oriented – the first with a five-year time horizon for purchase of car and the second with an investment horizon of 20-25 years for capital appreciation. The third with monthly payment of ₹8,000 is an ELSS for tax saving.
The fourth scheme (₹10,000/month) is a debt hybrid fund with an investment horizon of 10 years for children's education. After investing, I am able to provide for family with ₹25,000. Is the investment strategy right?
SURANJOY ATHOKPAM

A In general, for any goal, having an asset-allocation approach will help. Near-term goals should have less equity and long-term goals more (as your ability to take risk is higher over the long term). Use the ELSS together with the fund you have for capital appreciation as part of the 20-25-year goal portfolio. Have some amount as goal for this period (use online calculators to know how much to save) and work towards that. Let this be 70% of your total portfolio. As savings rises, add another fund, preferably a simple index fund with Nifty 50 or Nifty 500 as underlying index.
Divert 30% of savings towards short-duration and corporate-bond debt fund. This can have 70:30 equity debt. You can cut debt by 20% and add a gold fund for 10% if you wish to. If you have a goal with a 10-year time frame, a hybrid debt option will generate just a little more than deposit and is tax inefficient. Instead, use simple Nifty 50 and Nifty mid-cap 150 index funds for 60-70% equity and balance in debt funds like the ones mentioned above.
Here also, please use online calculators to estimate how much to save for children's education so that you can work towards the goal. Stick to index funds for equity whether investing via distributors or buying them online unless you have sufficient knowledge of MF performance. It will save you the hassle of constantly reviewing if the funds are doing well and provide you options at low cost (passive funds mirror the index and hence, are much lower in cost than active funds).
(The writer is co-founder, Primeinvestor.in)
In ASK US column of Sept. 18, interest payout on RBI Floating Rate Savings Bond must be half-yearly and not quarterly as printed. The error is regretted.

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Right turn: By avoiding higher fees and operational complexities associated with active funds, passive fund investors can position themselves favourably for reliable, long-term financial growth. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Active vs. passive funds: decades of trouncing

An actively-managed fund demands higher management costs while a passively-managed index fund enjoys lower management costs, reduced churning costs, and fewer advisory-related fees

FUND CHOICE

Anand Srinivasan
Sashwath Swaminathan

The discourse between active and passive fund management is far from a new saga in the investment domain, with its roots tracing back many decades.

The real turning point, however, emerged with the advent of the first index mutual fund in 1976, which tracked the S&P 500 index and was introduced by John Bogle – often hailed as the father of indexing.

Since then, a plethora of data has tilted favourably towards index funds when juxtaposed against the performance of active funds. An actively-managed fund demands higher management costs, usually ranging from 1-1.5% of the assets under management (AUM). Moreover, they incur other costs, such as churning costs associated with the repeated buying and selling of positions within the fund.

Lower cost
Conversely, passively-managed index funds enjoy lower management costs, reduced churning costs, and fewer advisory-related fee, with the expense ratio meandering between a modest 0.07% to 0.3%.

Although the disparity may seem marginal in the short run, the long-term compounding effect unveils a stark difference. For instance, an investment of ₹1 lakh in a fund yielding an average return of 11% per annum with an expense ratio of 1.5% over 40 years would burgeon to ₹37.7 lakh. Contrastingly, the same fund with a 0.3% expense ratio would amplify the corpus to ₹58.3 lakh.

> As of today, the data significantly supports the notion that adopting a passive indexing strategy is a wise decision for long-term investors

The narrative took a tangible form when, in 2007 Warren Buffett threw down the gauntlet to the hedge fund industry, wagering a simple S&P 500 index fund would outmanoeuvre a curation of actively-managed hedge funds over a decade. Protege Partners, an active management proponent, rose to the challenge by cherry-picking five hedge funds to substantiate the prowess of active fund management. While the bet was slated to run until 2017, the verdict was evident much earlier as Mr. Buffett's Vanguard-managed S&P 500 index fund significantly outshone the selected hedge funds.

The final results were revealing: The Vanguard S&P 500 index fund culminated with a cumulative return of 85.4%, dwarfing the five hedge funds, which scraped together an average return of 22%. The pronounced divergence in returns not only unveiled the superiority of passive over active management in this scenario but also spotlighted the cost ramifications intrinsic to active management, including management fees and other ancillary costs that gnaw at returns over time. This empirical exposition demonstrated passive funds' marked cost-saving and higher return potential, reinforcing the proposition of passive investment strategies, particularly for long-term investors.

Regulatory hurdles
Moreover, the road towards beating passive funds is strewn with regulatory and structural hurdles. The stringent oversight by SEBI, the propensity of active funds to mimic indices, relegating them to inferior returns, and the size limitations thwarting diversification into smaller market caps cast a formidable shadow. These dynamics tend to box funds in a narrow ambit of large firms, exerting pressure to align closely with the index, which often translates to mediocre returns.

As Anand Kalyanraman, an editor at *The Ken*, elucidates in his article, the departure of star fund managers in India has underscored the burgeoning chasm between active and passive fund management paradigms.

The exit of Jinesh Gopani from Axis Mutual Funds, Prashanth Jain from HDFC AMC and Santosh Kamath from Franklin Templeton marks a noteworthy inflexion point in the active fund-management arena. This transition unfolds against a backdrop where the AUM of passive funds have catapulted over 8.5 times within the last five years, soaring to an astounding $84 billion, mirroring a broader global trend and aligning with the empirical evidence dating back to the inception of index mutual funds in 1976.

Fund performance
The performance narrative has burgeoned into a hard-to-dismiss reality. As of December 31, 2022, 93.8% of large-cap active funds in India languished below the benchmark, as the S&P Indices Versus Active Funds India scorecard underscored. This narrative accentuates the Principal Agent dilemma – the discord between the incentives of fund managers and investors. Often, fund managers see their rewards tethered to the bulk of AUM, inadvertently driving mutual funds houses to channel more resources into marketing rather than robust market research.

As of today, the data heavily favours passive funds. It significantly supports the notion that adopting a passive indexing strategy is a wise decision for long-term investors. By avoiding the higher fees and operational complexities associated with active fund management and leveraging the historically solid performance of index funds, investors can position themselves favourably for reliable, long-term financial growth.

(Anand Srinivasan is a consultant, Sashwath Swaminathan is research assistant at Aionion Investment Services)

It won't happen to me!

COVERNOTE

Each type of insurance has historical and contemporary reasons for low sales, or otherwise, and it's interesting to understand the psychological and social factors behind our behaviour as consumers

K. Nitya Kalyani

Do you have a home fire insurance policy? I thought not. The reasoning is probably as in the headline. And, the correct thought process is in the concluding sentences of this instalment of CoverNote.

Before that: In the previous instalment of CoverNote we saw a broad outline of the reasons why various forms of personal insurance are not adopted to potential.

This remains a fact in spite of the impressive growth of the premium income of the insurance industry in over two decades of liberalisation.

Let us take fire insurance. Even in the nationalised decades of general insurance, people like you and me barely bought it for our homes.

Premium earner, profit maker
But, it was both the largest premium earner and the star profit-maker for the general insurance industry because the tariff rates were high and the loss experience was low.

Industrial customers had to buy fire insurance against term loans or working capital limits.

They bought just what was necessary and the industry wasn't in marketing mode. It was the largest portfolio simply because the other portfolios, namely health, accident, marine insurance and various rural insurances, were relatively smaller.

Tariff removal
Things changed when the tariff was removed in the late 2000s. Fire insurance premium rates crashed. Corporate finance had also moved from institutional to debt and equity from the capital markets.

But companies were getting prudent about fire risks and the portfolio grew gradually and organically.

Individual fire insurance picked up only marginally. Except when home loans require it, very rarely are we buying the nicely structured, and inexpensive, fire policies.

Lukewarm demand means companies don't hawk it. For the individual customer, it's not yet a pain point, as the cost of healthcare is.

In the next instalment we will see what consumer behaviour has been in health insurance.

But before that, why should you buy a home fire policy? Because it covers also floods, earthquakes, riots and other risks apart from fire, and it can protect not only your home but also its contents. And, it's a miniscule expenditure when compared with the loss you can suffer.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years — Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Flat Rs 76
State Bank of India	11.05-15.05	10,884-11,908	2,177-2,382	NIL (till 31st January 2024)
ICICI Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.90-18.25	10,846-12,765	2,169-2,553	Up to 2% (min. Rs 1,000 and max. Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.25-14.75	10,685-11,829	2,137-2,366	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	10.65-15.65	10,784-12,066	2,157-2,413	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	10.40-16.95	10,772-12,413	2,144-2,483	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49 onwards	10,994 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.40-15.50	10,971-12,027	2,194-2,405	Up to 1% (Max Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.15-12.80	10,660-11,325	2,132-2,265	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1% (Minimum Rs 750)
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	1% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Karnataka Bank	14.14	11,670	2,334	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min. Rs 2,500 & Max. Rs 8,500)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Car Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.75 - 10.50	10,319 - 10,747	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 9.60	10,319 - 10,525	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.70 - 12.10	10,307 - 11,148	Up to Rs 500
Canara Bank	8.80 - 11.95	10,331 - 11,110	Nil till 31 December 2023
Bank of India	8.85 - 10.75	10,343 - 10,809	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 5,000)
UCO Bank	8.45 - 10.55	10,246 - 10,759	Nil
State Bank of India	8.65 - 9.75	10,294 - 10,562	Nil
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.70 - 13.00	10,307 - 11,377	Nil
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	8.95 onwards	10,367 onwards	Rs 999 - Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.27 - 11.70	10,445 - 11,047	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Punjab and Sind Bank***	8.85 - 10.25	10,343-10,685	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)
South Indian Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
City Union Bank	14.25 - 14.75	11,699 - 11,829	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 750 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers.
***Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam.

Rates and charges as on October 4 — **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

NEW RECORD

Warner fastest batter to reach 1,000-run mark in World Cup

Australia opener David Warner on Sunday snatched Sachin Tendulkar's record for the fastest to reach 1,000 World Cup runs during the clash against India. Warner achieved the landmark in 19 innings in Chennai to better Tendulkar and former South Africa skipper A.B. de Villiers — both of whom got the runs in 20 outings.

'HOME' ADVANTAGE

I play for CSK, so I know the conditions in Chennai: Jadeja

Following a brilliant performance in the World Cup match against Australia in Chennai, Ravindra Jadeja said there was turn in the wicket. "I play for CSK, I know the conditions; when I saw the pitch I thought I should get two-three wickets, luckily I got three and am happy. I was looking to bowl into the stumps and there was turn."

MARCHING ORDERS

Trespasser evicted from MAC Stadium in India-Australia match

There was an unwelcome visitor on the field at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium during Australia's innings on Sunday when serial offender Daniel Jarvis, known as Jarvo, ran onto the ground twice, sporting an Indian jersey. He was evicted from the stadium, and is understood to have been banned from entering WC venues.

PENALTY

Sri Lanka fined for slow over-rate in match against South Africa

The Sri Lankan players were fined 10% of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against South Africa in the ICC World Cup opener in Delhi on Saturday. Match referee Javagal Srinath imposed the sanction after Dasun Shanaka's side was ruled to be two overs short of the target. Shanaka pleaded guilty to the offence.

Rahul, Kohli master the situation and Australia

Their 165-run stand for the fourth wicket rescues the hosts from a precarious three wickets for two runs and propels the team to victory after Jadeja & Co. restrict Cummins' men to 199

ODI WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

A pulsating Sunday night, oscillating between agony and ecstasy, finally culminated with India commencing its World Cup campaign on a winning note. Virat Kohli, the zen-master of the uphill pursuit, found a fine ally in 'Player-of-the-Match' K.L. Rahul as the Men in Blue survived a nervous two for three wickets stage, to upstage Australia here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium. India won by six wickets, posting 201 for four in 41.2 overs.

Pursuing Australia's 199, India's chase suffered an early stutter when Ishan Kishan attempted an extravagant drive against Mitchell Starc and edged.

Skipper Rohit Sharma departed in the next over with Josh Hazlewood darting one back in to ruffle the pad. The horrors continued as Shreyas Iyer needlessly tried to drill one over the inner circle and Hazlewood leapt in delight.

Sliver of fortune

Kohli thankfully avoided his colleagues' dirge of ducks, watching the ball closely, leaving on time, defending well and not averse to slap one past Hazlewood for four.

A sliver of fortune glimmered when a charging Mitchell Marsh dropped a skier from Kohli after the batter miscued a hook against Hazlewood. On 12 then, Kohli later whipped two fours off Cameron Green. Rahul too cut and drove Adam Zampa for three fours in the leg-spinner's first over.

The partnership found deep roots and calmed nerves in the Indian dressing room. Australian skipper Pat Cummins ran in hard and tried to hustle the duo but barring the odd play-and-miss, he too was countered. Kohli and Rahul got to their respective fifties before the former perished to Hazlewood with a tired pull. Kohli's 85 (116b, 6x4) and his 165-run fourth-wicket partnership with Rahul (97 n.o., 115b, 8x4, 2x6) ensured that India got past the winning line with Hardik Pandya too adding his flourish with a big hit.

Earlier, a sweltering hot afternoon was no deterrent for the fans and while their sea of blue swept into the venue, a few yellow streaks were visible due to some vacant seats of the same colour. David Warner and Marsh strode out and the latter succumbed early, twitching outside the off-stump for Jasprit Bumrah to induce the edge which a diving Kohli caught at first slip.

The old guard of Warner and Steve Smith soon combined well for a 69-run second-wicket partnership.

Warner drove and pulled while Smith found his spots. But against the run of play, Warner (41) lobbed one straight back to spinner Kuldeep Yadav. Marnus Labuschagne linked up with Smith (46) for a brief alliance that ended once Ravindra Jadeja pinned the latter to the crease and got the ball to turn just a shade and rattle the stumps.

It proved to be a stunning appetiser as Jadeja soon dismissed Labuschagne and Alex Carey.

Strangle by spin

At 119 for five in 30 overs, Australia suffocated under the 'strangle by spin' as Kuldeep and R. Ashwin struck in tandem.

Kuldeep castled Glenn Maxwell and despite the rare big shot, the tail wilted and India eventually owned the night.

Allies in mission: Rahul and Kohli played percentage cricket to perfection to pull India out of the woods and put it on the victory path. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA
David Warner c & b Kuldeep 41 *(52b, 6x4)*, Mitchell Marsh c Kohli b Bumrah 0 *(6b)*, Steve Smith b Jadeja 46 *(71b, 5x4)*, Marnus Labuschagne c Rahul b Jadeja 27 *(41b, 1x4)*, Glenn Maxwell b Kuldeep 15 *(25b, 1x4)*, Alex Carey lbw b Jadeja 0 *(2b)*, Cameron Green c Hardik b Ashwin 8 *(20b)*, Pat Cummins c Shreyas b Bumrah 15 *(24b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Mitchell Starc c Shreyas b Siraj 28 *(35b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Adam Zampa c Kohli b Hardik 6 *(20b)*, Josh Hazlewood (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-6, w-6): 12; Total (in 49.3 overs): 199.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-5 (Marsh, 2.2 overs), 2-74 (Warner, 16.3), 3-110 (Smith, 27.1), 4-119 (Labuschagne, 29.2), 5-119 (Carey, 29.4), 6-140 (Maxwell, 35.5), 7-140 (Green, 36.2), 8-165 (Cummins, 42.2), 9-189 (Zampa, 48.2).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 10-0-35-2, Siraj 6.3-1-26-1, Hardik 3-0-28-1, Ashwin 10-1-34-1, Kuldeep 10-0-42-2, Jadeja 10-2-28-3.

INDIA
Rohit Sharma lbw b Hazlewood 0 *(6b)*, Ishan Kishan c Green b Starc 0 *(1b)*, Virat Kohli c Labuschagne b Hazlewood 85 *(116b, 6x4)*, Shreyas Iyer c Warner b Hazlewood 0 *(3b)*, K.L. Rahul (not out) 97 *(115b, 8x4, 2x6)*, Hardik Pandya (not out) 11 *(8b, 1x6)*; Extras (b-1, lb-1, nb-1, w-5): 8; Total (for four wkts in 41.2 overs): 201.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-2 (Kishan, 0.4), 2-2 (Rohit, 1.3), 3-2 (Shreyas, 1.6), 4-167 (Kohli, 37.4).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Starc 8-0-31-1, Hazlewood 9-1-38-3, Cummins 6.2-0-33-0, Maxwell 8-0-33-0, Green 2-0-11-0, Zampa 8-0-53-0.

Toss: Australia; **PoM:** Rahul.
India won by six wickets with 52 balls to spare.

Next assignment

India: Oct. 11 vs. **Afghanistan,** *Delhi, 2 p.m.*

Australia: Oct. 12 vs. **South Africa,** *Lucknow, 2 p.m.*

Smith's wicket proved the turning point: Jadeja

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

For Ravindra Jadeja, the 22-yard strip at Chepauk is like a second home, having spent the last decade with Chennai Super Kings. And it came in handy as he broke the back of the Australian middle-order with his three-wicket haul to set up India's six-wicket win on Sunday.

Brilliant delivery

When Steve Smith looked set for a big one, Jadeja's brilliant delivery to dismiss the former Australian skipper turned the tide for the hosts.

"From 119 for three to 199 all out, yes, I think it was the turning point," said Jadeja.

"It helped me because I have known the conditions in Chennai for the last 10 to 11 years. I enjoyed it and luckily that ball turned a little more," he added.

Speaking about how he approached his bowling in favourable conditions, Jadeja explained, "When I started, the ball was stopping a bit after pitching. The pitch was dry, and I thought bowling the stump line was very good.

"When a few balls turn and some go straight, it becomes difficult for the batters to line up. So my plan was to keep it simple on the stumps.

"It was a Test-match pitch and there was no need to experiment.

"Everything was happening off the wicket, so I just stuck to bowling stump-to-stump," said the all-rounder.

Commenting on the win, Jadeja underscored the importance of beating a side like Australia.

"It feels very good when you beat a big team like Australia. There are two-three more strong teams, and if we beat them also, it will give a lot of confidence. If the confidence of even seven to eight players is good, you go ahead in a positive direction."

Defining moment: Jadeja got one past the edge of Smith to rattle the stumps. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Reprieve: Marsh's largesse helped Kohli flourish. REUTERS

Hazlewood says Marsh's drop not a game-changer

Sahil Mathur
CHENNAI

Mitchell Marsh dropping Virat Kohli early in the run chase wasn't a game-changer and Australia did well to try and defend 200, pacer Josh Hazlewood said after the loss against India.

Kohli, who scored 85, was dropped on 12 in the eighth over when India was 20 for three.

The Australian pacer said it was too early in the innings and that the pitch was helpful enough to keep the pressure on the Indian batters. "It was quite early when that catch was dropped but we still felt that the new ball was doing enough," said Hazlewood.

"I think we were two for 110 or something like that. Not going really quickly but just building a base to maybe launch in the last 10 or 15 overs... if we had got 250-260, it would have been a different ballgame."

He further added that the dew did play a role in the latter half of the day despite helping the pacers early in the second innings and the ball spun more in the first innings.

BCCI quells India jersey rumours

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

In the lead-up to the much-anticipated World Cup game between India and Pakistan at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on October 14, there was speculation around a change in the Indian team's playing jersey. However, BCCI treasurer Ashish Shelar dismissed the alleged reports and stated that "the Men in Blue will sport India colours – Blue – at the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023".

The earlier rumours centred around India donning an orange/ saffron jersey in its duel against Pakistan.

While it is a fact that the squad members donned an orange jersey for training schedules, they have always turned out in the blue shade for matches, including the latest World Cup game against Australia here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday.

A new high

Besting the master: Kohli's single to complete his 20th run against Australia on Sunday helped him overtake Sachin Tendulkar's record for the highest aggregate by an Indian batter in ICC white-ball tournaments (ICC 50-over World Cup, T20 World Cup and Champions Trophy). Tendulkar amassed 2719 runs in 58 innings, between 1992 and 2011, while Kohli now has 2785 runs in 64 innings.
B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Southee and Ferguson set to return for Netherlands clash

Both seamers missed the opener against England due to injuries, Williamson continues to be on the sidelines

ODI WORLD CUP

V.S. Aravind
HYDERABAD

Kane Williamson will be spending more time on the sidelines and is yet to regain full fitness as New Zealand takes on the Netherlands in the sixth match of the World Cup 2023 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here on Monday.

New Zealand has been hamstrung by the fitness issues of its key players, especially its bowlers during its opener against England. The Black Caps went for a bowlers' shopping and found gold in Glenn Phillips and Mitchell Santner, with Matt Henry spearheading the bowling attack. Against England, the silent assassins hammered the defending champion by nine wickets, with Henry headlining by picking three wickets and Phillips, along with Santner, sharing four wickets among themselves.

Kingpins: Conway, left, Ferguson and Southee go through warm-up drills during practice. K.V.S. GIRI

Such was the selection audacity of the Tom Latham-led side that it managed to chop away 20 overs from its part-timers, with Rachin Ravindra bowling his full quota of 10 overs.

The explosive 23-year-old opener, who has shades of Sanath Jayasuriya, blasted away to become the youngest to score a century on his World Cup debut, along with Devon Conway, who stood tall with a 121-ball 152.

The good news for the Kiwis is that fast bowlers Lockie Ferguson and Tim Southee will make a return for the second game against the Dutch after recovering from injuries.

The only associate nation in this tournament, the Netherlands, did give a scare to Pakistan but fizzled out with the bat to lose its opening match.

In its fifth appearance at the World Cup, having made its debut in 1996, the Scott Edwards-led side needs to find batting depth to pose a challenge against New Zealand.

Today's match

New Zealand vs. Netherlands

Hyderabad, 2 p.m.

H2H IN ODIs

Played 4

New Zealand	Netherlands
4	0

EYE ON THE SKY

High: 34°C
Low: 21°C
Partly cloudy with haze
SOURCE: IMD

We approach every game the same way, says Phillips

V. V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

New Zealand's hard-hitting batter Glenn Phillips said that it was important for the team to keep things as neutral as possible since the tournament can witness a quick turn-around.

Speaking to the media ahead of the World Cup match against The Netherlands here, Phillips said on Sunday they were keen not to get too high when they win and not to get too low when the big win against England in the World Cup opener.

"I think this is the key for us throughout the competition," he said.

"We approach every game the same way every time, every team is strong in their own right, especially on the given day and tough team to beat. We're going to have to still put our best foot forward, as I'm sure they (The Netherlands) will," Phillips said.

"We try to adapt as quickly as possible on the day and I think that's what we pride ourselves on understanding that you get one shot at each team.

Spin twins: New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra and Ish Sodhi would look to spin a web around the Dutch batters. K. V. S. GIRI

> The pitch always looks good here. The ground staff does an incredible job... hopefully, it'll present another entertaining game

And, it comes down to who can adjust to the conditions on the given day," Phillips said.

"The pitch always looks good here. The ground staff does an incredible job. There have been quite a lot of high scoring games here over the years. So hopefully, it'll present another entertaining game," he said.

For his part, Roelof van der Merwe of The Netherlands said they had reviewed the game and understood where they needed to improve.

"All those things have been talked about and we know we need to do it for longer and yeah, all those things have been being discussed," he said.

India walks the talk and makes good on the *Ab ki baar sau paar* slogan

And the hundred is up! The women's kabaddi team celebrates its gold, a win that ensured that India breached the three-figure mark for the first time. While the bulk of medals that the country won came from traditional sports, athletes from lesser known disciplines like the roller-skating women's bronze winners and Roshibina Devi Naorem, *below*, a silver medallist in the wushu women's 60kg, also added to the overall tally. PTI, AP

ASIAN GAMES

Uthra Ganesan
HANGZHOU

When the Indian Olympic Association and the Sports Ministry launched the slogan *Ab ki baar sau paar* for the 2023 Asian Games, there were few serious takers for the claim. After all, the previous best was 70 in Jakarta five years ago.

Logic, cynicism and India's medal history ensured even seasoned observers of Indian sports erred on the side of caution, giving a conservative estimate of somewhere in the mid 80s. Even halfway through the two-week competition here, the 100-medal mark looked a little far-fetched.

On Friday, the women's kabaddi team had the honour of not only regaining the gold it lost in 2018 but also be the 100th Indian medallist. As claimants for the origin of the sport, it was perhaps befitting that kabaddi marked the milestone moment.

But through the past 15 days, Indians proved repeatedly that they were not here to just make up the numbers. It began in water with the unassuming rowers and ended on the mat with a gold in what, after hockey, is the one sport that ignites Indian sentiments like nothing else.

New heroes

In between, the nation found new heroes in events as diverse as equestrian dressage and roller-skating, reaffirmed faith in old favourites like hockey and boxing and broke new grounds in badminton, table tennis and squash.

And while the likes of shooting and athletics provided the bulk of medals, the spread of Indian medalists across 21 different sports in this edition says much about the strides Indian sportspersons have made in the last few years.

It has taken India 72 years and 18 editions to reach this stage. At the end of competition in Hangzhou late on Sunday night, the country was fourth on the medals table with 107 medals – 28 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze – a jump of four places from Jakarta, where India had 16 gold, 23 silver and 31 bronze.

And while perspective is a good thing – there were an incredible 60 disciplines here, including newcomers like breaking, sport climbing and e-sports that pushed the number of medals much higher than ever before – it is no mean achievement for India given that a bulk of its medals came in the traditional events despite the largest-ever contingent of 655.

The big contributors

India finished track & field with 29 medals (six gold), shooting with 22 (seven gold) and archery with nine including five golds, the three sports contributing more than half of India's medals.

The division of medallists across genders is also almost equal – 52 came from men, 46 from women, the rest in mixed

events. Rifle shooter Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and pistol ace Esha Singh took home four medals each and were among the 30 athletes to win more than one medal. India did not have a single medal-less day through the two weeks of competition.

While events like cricket, kabaddi, hockey, badminton or shooting are well known and among the more followed sports in India, the medallists this time included sepak takraw (women's regu bronze), wushu (silver), roller skating (men's and women's 3000m relay bronze each) and bridge (men's team silver).

There were also some outstanding performances and medals in sports that were hitherto considered out of bounds for Indians – Sutirtha and Ayhika Mukherjee's stunning quarterfinal win against the world champion Chinese pair of Meng Chen and Yidi Wang in table tennis, Chirag Shetty-Satwiksairaj Rankireddy's incredible gold-winning run in badminton doubles, the team of Anush Agarwalla, Hriday Chheda, Sudipti Hajela and Divyakriti Singh who combined to win first-ever dressage team gold in equestrian, Ebad Ali's bronze in windsurfing – India's first ever international medal in the event.

Final Medals Table

Country	G	S	B	T
China	201	111	71	383
Japan	52	67	69	188
S. Korea	42	59	89	190
India	**28**	**38**	**41**	**107**
Uzbekistan	22	18	31	71
Chinese Taipei	19	20	28	67
Iran	13	21	20	54
Thailand	12	14	32	58
Bahrain	12	3	5	20
N. Korea	11	18	10	39

It was also an edition that might have seen the last of some sporting legends who gave their everything to not go home empty-handed – Rohan Bopanna (tennis) and Saurav Ghosal (squash) – while seeing the rise of a new generation of athletes who desire more and fear nothing, taking on the world as equals. Abhay Singh's final showdown against Pakistan to win the men's squash team gold, and H.S. Prannoy coming back from dead to reach the semifinals for the first-ever men's singles medal since Syed Modi in 1982 are testament to that.

The next generation

At 15 years each, Anahat Singh became a bronze medallist in squash and Sanjana Bathula got one in roller-skating. Archer Admiti Swami, already a world champion at 17, added a compound individual gold. Palak, also 17, shot a new Games Record in 10m air pistol. Esha Singh at 18 picked up four medals.

The challenge now – for athletes, officials, federations and the ministry – will be to ensure that the processes set in place for the Games are continued without any breaks or hiccups till the Paris Olympics. India has often struggled to translate its continental success on to the biggest global sporting stage. Also pertinent to remember is that several of India's medals came in events that are not part of the Olympics so far – compound archery, squash and several shooting team events to name a few.

The powers-that-be would also do well to take note that the euphoria of crossing the 100-milestone doesn't sweep the concerns and issues plaguing several sports under the carpet – the football team was literally assembled hours before travelling, wushu athletes from Arunachal Pradesh could not travel to China, equestrian has been struggling with administrative issues for years now with several legal cases around its working and selection, boxing federation was also taken to court over selection issues, wrestling and volleyball are being run by administrators.

For now, though, it is time to celebrate the history-makers.

Thank you Hangzhou, hello Aichi-Nagayo

Aashin Prasad
HANGZHOU

If exhibiting China's might as the leading technology-powered nation was the message from the opening ceremony, the theme of the Hangzhou Asian Games closing ceremony was about celebrating solidarity within the continent.

The Games officially came to a close on Sunday after two weeks of thrilling sporting action.

Roads were cordoned off and subway lines heading towards the Olympic Stadium were closed as the Premier Li Qiang marked his presence at the event.

Li, alongside the acting Olympic Council of Asia president Raja Randhir Singh, spoke of his appreciation towards Hangzhou in delivering a 'distinctly Chinese Asian Games'.

"You have been the perfect host and OCA will never forget this. The power of sport and Asian Games is to unite us all," said Randhir.

Sreejesh is flag-bearer

Hundreds of athletes from the 45 countries, who completed their engagements over the last few days, simultaneously congregated out onto the field. The Indian delegation was led by flagbearer P.R. Sreejesh, who helped India to the

Proud moment: Sreejesh leading Indian contingent during the closing ceremony. PTI

hockey gold.

"It's a tremendous honour and privilege to represent my country as the flag-bearer at the closing ceremony. The success of our Indian contingent, especially the Indian men's hockey team, has been an incredible journey filled with hard work and dedication. This moment signifies the unity and strength of our nation in the world of sports," said Sreejesh.

India, which enjoyed its best-ever Asian Games campaign with a record 107 medals, soaked in the celebratory atmosphere and indulged in selfies.

The 90-minute long ceremony displayed the bond which Hangzhou's vibrant nature shares with Asia as LED giant sprouting osmanthuses lit up the arena, a video package of the best moments showcasing the sportsmanship of the Games, and the enduring memories of the host city.

Randhir officially closed the Games before Hangzhou, which follows the Chinese tradition of plucking a flower and passing it on to a departing friend, passed the Games over to Aichi-Nagayo of Japan, the host in 2026. And with that, the cauldron was extinguished by the digital torchbearer who then ran into the night skies to become one with the stars.

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CRICKET WORLD CUP
TRIVIA CHALLENGE
1. Many firsts occurred during the 1992 World Cup, including the first-ever day-night game in World Cup history. What were the two contending teams?
2. While Mike Gatting's ill-fated reverse sweep in the 1987 World Cup final is well-known, a batsman fell to a reverse sweep in the 1992 World Cup final as well. This time, who was the batter involved?
3. Name the batsman who scored 188 against the UAE in the 1996 ODI World Cup
Visit bit.ly/WCTCTANDC to read the Terms & Conditions.
Scan the QR code to participate in the quiz. Top 3 winners each day will win exciting gift vouchers
Answer to yesterday's quiz:
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2. Rambabu Gupta
3. Lance and Chris Cairns

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The 2023 World Cup finds its voice at last!

Fans throng the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in huge numbers despite the sweltering heat and humidity as Rohit's Men in Blue kick off their campaign against Australia on Sunday

ODI WORLD CUP

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

It took game five for the 2023 World Cup to finally find its voice as fans thronged the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday to watch the hosts kick off its campaign.

Despite the heat and sweltering humidity, the crowd started building up as early as noon. Though there were some empty seats when the match got underway, slowly, the stadium filled up, with the official attendance being 33,110 out of a capacity of 37,000 (approximately), about 90% attendance.

Interestingly, a few fans on social media shared that they were able to buy tickets for the match on Sunday morning from the official ticketing partner despite it being officially sold out weeks ago.

It is learnt that some tickets, which are blocked for sponsors, other state associations or former players/office-bearers, can get released back into the general pool if it fails to find takers, though the numbers are generally minimal.

Solid support: There was almost a 90% turnout for the India-Australia match. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The build-up to the 2023 edition has been subdued with little buzz. The first four games had received only lukewarm response from the fans at the grounds, with the issues surrounding the announcement of scheduling and the ticket sales not helping things.

While it is understandable that stadiums will not fill out for games not featuring India, the last-minute nature of the whole thing has made it difficult for even neutral or passionate cricket lovers to enjoy the spectacle of the World Cup.

The 50-over cricket World Cup, held once every four years, has always been the sport's crown jewel on the calendar since its inception in 1975.

With India's campaign on the books, there is hope it will drive more interest in the tournament and more fans will throng the stadiums.

Stokes unlikely to play against Bangladesh

Waiting game: Stokes is still nursing a niggle and did not seem fully fit during England's nets on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Ayan Acharya
DHARAMSHALA

England's allrounder Ben Stokes is unlikely to appear in the team's second ODI World Cup match against Bangladesh in Dharamshala on Tuesday.

Stokes had a brief hit in the nets on Sunday and did some running. However, he did not appear 100 % fit.

A hip niggle kept England's Test captain out of the World Cup opener against New Zealand, which the defending champion lost by nine wickets.

Stokes, who was the Player of the Match in the 2019 final, came out of One-Day International retirement in August this year despite a long-standing knee injury.

He did not play in England's warm-up game against Bangladesh in Guwahati as well.

Chris Tetley, the ICC's head of events, and pitch consultant Andy Atkinson inspected the outfield during a scheduled visit on Sunday. "The ICC independent pitch consultant has taken a look at the outfield today and is comfortable with the conditions," said a spokesperson.

The outfield conditions during the Bangladesh Afghanistan contest had raised safety concerns.

Several players from both sides lost their footing in the deep, with Afghanistan spinner Mujeeb ur Rahman luckily avoiding a serious knee injury while fielding.

Clutch goal: Martinelli's 86th-minute strike ended Arsenal's 12-game losing streak against City in the Premier League. REUTERS

Martinelli delivers as Arsenal pips Man City

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
LONDON

Arsenal finally ended its 12-game losing streak to Manchester City in the Premier League after Gabriel Martinelli scored in the 87th minute on Sunday to secure a 1-0 win over the defending champion at the Emirates stadium. Arsenal and Tottenham now top the standings with 20 points from eight games, with City two points behind in third.

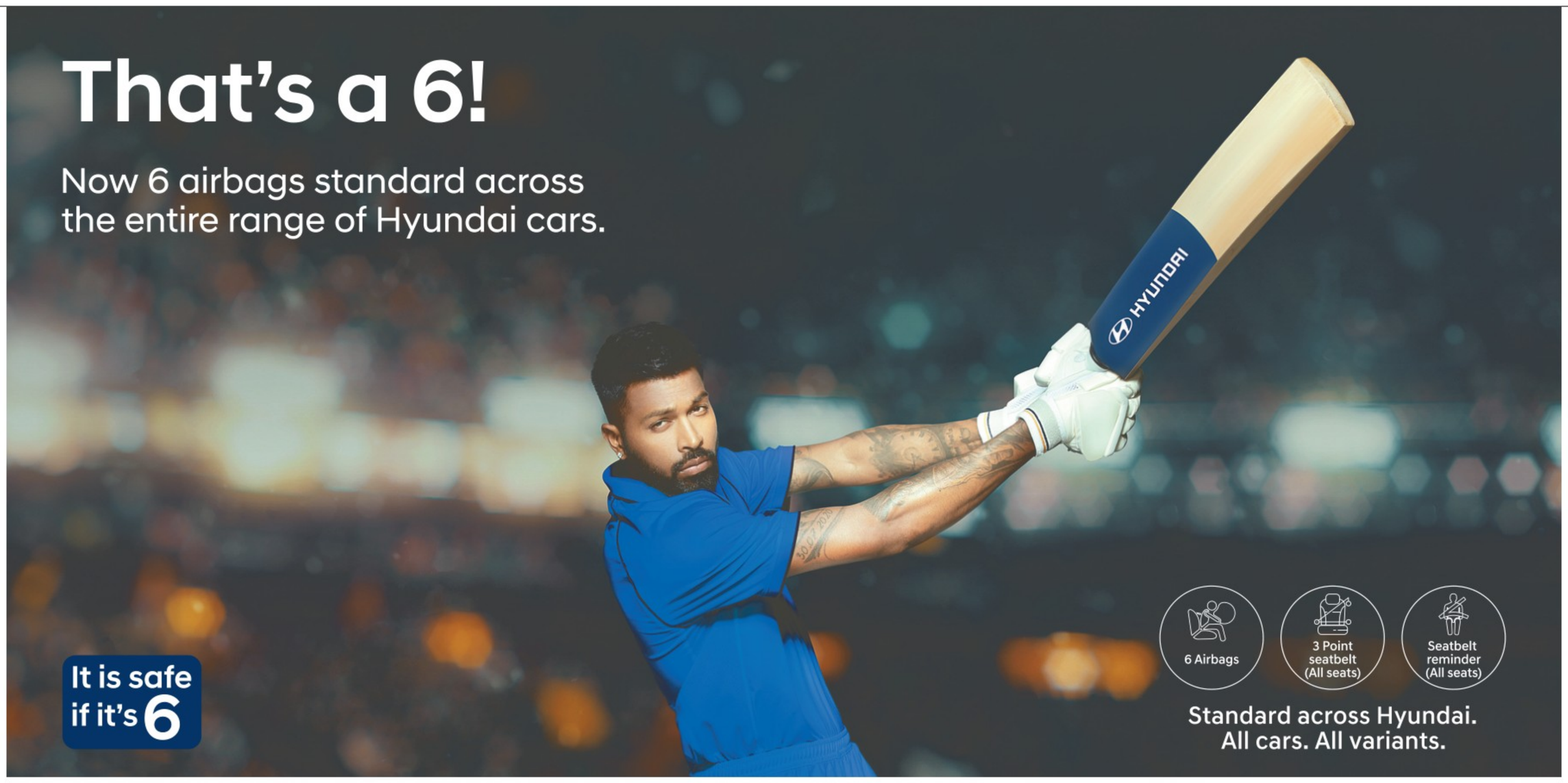
In another match, Liverpool missed the chance to go second in as the Reds were pegged back in a 2-2 draw at Brighton, while Newcastle was also held 2-2 by West Ham.

Aston Villa was held 1-1 at Wolves.

Christian Pulisic fired AC Milan top of Serie A on Saturday after a 1-0 win at Genoa decided in a wild final few minutes in which Olivier Giroud slipped on his goalkeeping gloves and saved the day.

The results:
Premier League: Brighton 2 (Adingra 20, Dunk 78) drew with Liverpool 2 (Salah 40, 45+1-pen); West Ham 2 (Soucek 8, Kudus 89) drew with Newcastle 2 (Isak 57, 62); Wolves 1 (Hwang 53) drew with Aston Villa 1 (Torres 55); Arsenal 1 (Martinelli 86) bt Manchester City 0.

Serie A: Lazio 3 (De Ketelaere 5-og, Castellanos 11, Vecino 83) bt Atalanta 2 (Ederson 33, Kolasinac 63); Cagliari 1 (Nandez 87-pen) lost to Roma 4 (Aouar 19, Lukaku 20 & 59, Belotti 51).
Bundesliga: Bayern Munchen 3 (Coman 12 & 85, Sane 25) bt Freiburg 0.
On Saturday: Serie A: Genoa 0 lost to AC Milan 1 (Pulisic 87).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M BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Kiptum sets World record to win Chicago Marathon

Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum set a World record to win Sunday's Chicago Marathon men's title in an unofficial time of two hours and 35 seconds. The 23-year-old shattered the old mark of 2:01:09 set by compatriot Eliud Kipchoge at the 2022 Berlin Marathon. Dutch star Sifan Hassan won women's title in an unofficial time of two hours, 13 minutes and 44 seconds, the second-fastest women's time in marathon history.

Ayush claims bronze in World junior badminton

Young shuttler Ayush Shetty finished his campaign at the BWF World Junior Championships with a bronze medal after losing to Indonesia's Alwi Farhan 21-18, 21-15 in the semifinals in Spokane, USA, on Saturday. Ayush became the 10th Indian to win a medal at the World juniors and the eighth men's singles shuttler to do so. India has won 11 medals in the competition with Saina Nehwal contributing a silver and gold in 2006 and 2008 respectively.

Niki and Divij clinch Challenger doubles title

Fourth seeds Niki Poonacha and Divij Sharan defeated the third-seeded Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and John-Patrick Smith 6-4, 3-6, [10-7] in the doubles final of the €118,000 Challenger tennis tournament at Alicante, Spain, on Saturday. The champion team won 100 ATP points and €6,845. The runner-up team pocketed 60 points and €4,050. It was the second Challenger doubles title this season for the 28-year-old Poonacha and the first Challenger title of the season and 43rd doubles title of his professional career for the 38-year-old Divij, who has won many Challenger titles and a few Tour events as well.

Kickstart FC gets the better of Real Chikmagalur

Kickstart FC defeated Real Chikmagalur 3-1 in the BDFA Super Division football league in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The results: ASC Center FC 2 (Jacob Vanal Bela 31, Dip Mujumdar 35) bt FC Bengaluru United 1 (Jerry Onesemas Pulamte 17); Kickstart FC 3 (Abhishek Shankar Powar 32, Aenam GraffenBerg Jurwa 22, A. Jockson Dhas 35) bt Real Chikmagalur FC 1 (Mayur Kshetragna 90+3).

Mumbai City bests Kerala Blasters in an ISL match-up

Mumbai City FC got the better of Kerala Blasters 2-1 in Mumbai on Sunday. Jorge Pereyra Diaz put the home side ahead in the added time of the first half before the visitors equalised in the 57th minute through Danish Farooq. Lalengmawia Ralte's 66th minute strike gave Mumbai the upper hand. The match was going the local side's way when a scuffle broke out among the players from both sides. This resulted in Mumbai's Yoell van Nieff and Blasters' Milos Drincic being ejected. Mumbai is now second on the table with seven points from three games, while Blasters has six from same number of matches.

The result: Mumbai City 2 (Pereyra Diaz 45+4, Ralte 66) bt Kerala Blasters 1 (Farooq 57).

LIVE TELECAST

Men's Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.

Pro Kabaddi League: Player Auction, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8.15 p.m. onwards

'This is my best', Verstappen after winning third F1 title

The Red Bull driver says he has reached a new level of consistency this year; Dutchman celebrates his coronation with his 14th victory in 17 races this season, taking his career tally to 49

QATAR GP

Agence France-Presse
DOHA

Roar of a champion: The 26-year-old Verstappen became the second-youngest triple world champion after now-retired Vettel, who achieved the feat at 25. REUTERS

Max Verstappen said his third consecutive drivers' world title triumph, achieved in Saturday's sprint race at the Qatar Grand Prix, was "the one I am most proud of-the best."

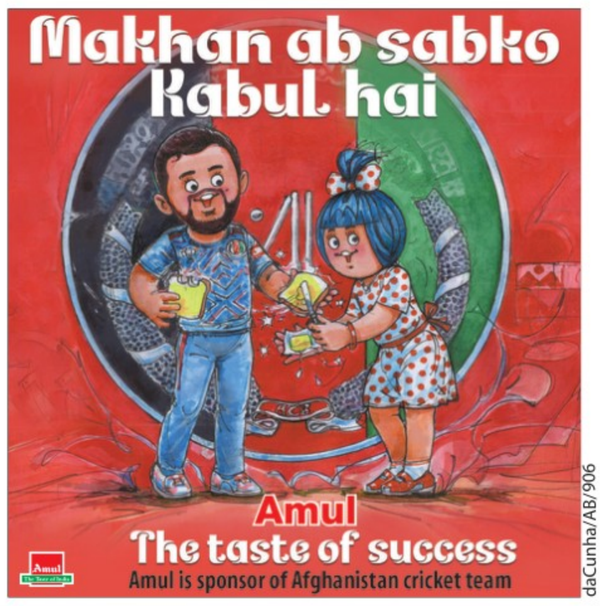
The 26-year-old Dutchman, who was champion in 2021 and 2022, finished second behind McLaren's Oscar Piastri after his Red Bull team-mate and only remaining title rival Sergio Perez crashed out of the race and the championship reckoning.

"This one is the best," he said, "I think the first one was the most emotional because that is when your dreams are fulfilled, but this is definitely my best year for consecutive wins and stuff like that and the car itself has been probably in the best shape as well. For me, this is the one I am most proud of because of the consistency."

He is the 11th racer overall to win three drivers' titles and one of only five to win three in succession along with Juan-Manuel Fangio, Michael Schumacher, Sebastian Vettel and Lewis Hamilton.

Verstappen won his first race as a triple Formula One world champion on Sunday after dominating a Qatar GP peppered with pitstops and penalties for a rash of track limit violations.

The victory from pole position under the Lusail floodlights was his 14th in 17 races, and a career 49th triumph. Australian rookie Oscar Piastri finished second with McLaren teammate Lando Norris third in what became a three-stop race after Pirelli warned of the risk of blowouts.



Sinner qualifies for ATP Finals

ANI
TURIN

Italian tennis star Jannik Sinner qualified for the Nitto ATP Finals which will be held from November 12 to November 19. He is the fourth player to qualify after Carlos Alcaraz, Novak Djokovic and Daniil Medvedev. The Italian advanced by defeating Marcos Giron in the Rolex Shanghai Masters second round. After competing at the Pala Alpitour as an alternate in 2021 after fellow countryman Matteo Berrettini withdrew due to injury, he has now qualified for the year-end championships for the first time. Sinner won his sixth match in a row by defeating Marcos Giron 7-6(7), 6-2 on Saturday.

"I knew [I could qualify] before the match, so I wanted to accomplish this here. I'm very happy. It was our main goal" Sinner said.

Arya, Diljith scorch the track in the LGB Formula 4 category

MOTORSPORTS

Rayan Rozario
COIMBATORE

Racing ahead: Arya speeds to victory in the opening race for the LGB Formula 4 cars. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Arya Singh and T.S. Diljith signed off on a merry note winning a race each in the premier class, the LGB Formula 4, in the second round of the 26th JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship at the Kari Motor Speedway here on Sunday.

After a double victory the other day, Arya added one more to his kitty winning the opening race. It was not easy though for the Kolkata youngster as his teammate Diljith was hot on his heels.

Starting on pole, Arya gained the early advantage but Diljith caught up with him only to hand it back to the former.

The fight between the two had the spectators at the edge of their seats. However, towards the end, it was Arya who held his nerve to cross the line. Tijil Rao (Dark Don Racing) made a smart move in the final lap to finish ahead of Diljith.

Arya agreed it was tough all the way but was pleased with his efforts.

In the second race, Diljith, Tijil and Arya made it all the more memorable by taking the top three slots on the podium once again. This time around, Diljith did a much better job. It came as a sweet surprise for the team as he started from P9.

The experienced racer from Kerala knew he had the pace and the power in him to upset the best. And, he did that in a commanding manner by taking on the front-runners one by one before sealing the place in the front. From there, he never turned back.

The results (provisional): JK Tyre Novice Cup: Race 1: 1. Arjun S. Nair (Momentum Motorsport) 14:04.119; 2. Neythan McPherson (Momentum Motorsport) 14:04.903; Jigar Muni (Momentum Motorsport) 14:05.709. **Race 2:** McPherson 13:57.174; 2. Arjun 13:57.347; 3. Jigar 13:58.230.

LGB Formula 4: Race 1: Arya Singh (Dark Don Racing) 19:25.449; 2. Tijil Rao (Dark Don) 19:29.336; 3. T.S. Diljith (Dark Don) 19:29.549. **Race 2:** 1. Diljith 27:43.905; 2. Tijil 27:48.518; 3. Arya 27:49.901.

JK Tyre presents 250 Cup: 1. Sarvesh Balappa 15:00.976; 2. Aldrin Babu 15:08.360; 3. Ashish Patel 15:08.617.

JK Tyre presents RE Continental GT Cup: 1. Jagadeesh Nagaraj 13:38.407; 2. Ullas S. Nanda 13:39.060; 3. Abhishek Vasudev 13:39.112.

Alabama will strive to come good in feature

HYDERABAD: Trainer Laxman Singh's filly Alabama, who ran second in her last start, should make amends in the K. Srinivas Reddy Memorial Cup, the chief event of Monday's (Oct. 9) races.

1 ADITYA L1 PLATE (1,100m) Maiden, 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.30 p.m.: 1. Silver Act (5) Vivek G 60, 2. Ben Hur (1) Surya Prakash 59.5, 3. Bold Beauty (8) Santosh Raj 59.5, 4. Federer (2) Deepak Singh 59.5, 5. Flashing Memories (3) R.S. Jodha 57.5, 6. Oskars Glory (4) Md. Ismail 57, 7. Shazia (7) G. Naresh 57, 8. Zidane (–) and 9. Solar Princess (6) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 55.5.
1. BOLD BEAUTY, 2. SILVER ACT, 3. FEDERER

2 BE MY GUEST PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.05: 1. Crimson Rose (6) Akshay Kumar 61, 2. Mr. Perfect (5) Mohit Singh 59.5, 3. Blast In Class (7) Santosh Raj 59, 4. Alexina (8) Ajay Kumar 58.5, 5. Delhi Heights (2) Surya Prakash 58, 6. Blue Label (4) Md. Ekram Alam 53.5, 7. Deccan Ranger (3) G. Naresh 52.5, 8. Arba Wahed Arba (1) Afroz Khan 51.5 and 9. Muaser (9) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 51.5.
1. CRIMSON ROSE, 2. ALEXINA, 3. BLAST IN CLASS

3 BE MY GUEST PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.40: 1. Clefairy (2) Ajay Kumar 61, 2. Happy Go Lucky (5) Ashad Asbar 60, 3. Sweet Dancer (7) Vivek G 60, 4. Divine Connection (9) Md. Ekram Alam 59.5, 5. Only The Brave (8) Santosh Raj 59, 6. Ambitious Star (4) R.S. Jodha 57, 7. Silver Lining (6) Afroz Khan 54, 8. Special Effort (1) Md. Ismail 52.5 and 9. Jet Falcon (3) Surya Prakash 50.
1. SWEET DANCER, 2. HAPPY GO LUCKY, 3. CLEFAIRY

4 NALGONDA PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.15: 1. Fara (5) Ashad Asbar 60, 2. Sangreal (4) Akshay Kumar 60, 3. Rising Tycoon (2) A. Imran Khan 59, 4. Desert Sultan (1) G. Naresh 56.5, 5. Soorya Vahan (3) Md. Ismail 56.5, 6. London Bell (8) Md. Ekram Alam 55, 7. Sweet Whisper (6) R.S. Jodha 54.5, 8. Wandring Warrior (7) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 54 and 9. Rochelle (9) Santosh Raj 52.
1. SANGREAL, 2. LONDON BELL, 3. FARA

5 GODAVARI CUP (2,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.50: 1. Advance Guard (3) Surya Prakash 61.5, 2. Carnival Lady (1) Kuldeep Singh 59.5, 3. Life Is Good (2) Md. Ismail 59.5, 4. China Town (4) Vivek G 59, 5. Voice Of A Dream (6) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 59, 6. Hoping Sky (5) Mohit Singh 58.5 and 7. Double Bonanza (–).
1. VOICE OF A DREAM, 2. HOPING SKY

6 K. SRINIVAS REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.25: 1. Miss Marvellous (5) A. Imran Khan 60, 2. Alabama (6) Ajay Kumar 59.5, 3. Barbet (1) Abhay Singh 56.5, 4. Lucky Zone (7) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 55, 5. Mandela (2) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 6. Only My Way (4) Afroz Khan 54.5 and 7. N R I Ultrapower (3) Md. Ekram Alam 53.5.
1. ALABAMA, 2. MANDELA, 3. BARBET

7 TAJ MAHAL PLATE (1,100m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 5.00: 1. Red Snaper (8) Md. Ekram Alam 60, 2. Baisa (9) Deepak Singh 58.5, 3. Star Babe (4) A.M. Tograllu 56.5, 4. Bugsy (7) Surya Prakash 55, 5. Sopranos (5) Akshay Kumar 55, 6. Star Racer (1) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 55, 7. Cabello (10) Santosh Raj 54.5, 8. Rising Queen (3) Md. Ismail 54.5, 9. D Yes Boss (2) Vivek G 53, 10. Salisbury (6) Mohit Singh 52.5 and 11. Indian Temple (11) Abhay Singh 51.
1. RED SNAPER, 2. SOPRANOS, 3. RISING QUEEN

Day's Best: **CRIMSON ROSE**
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 5, 6 & 7.
Tanala: All races.

Swiatek. GETTY IMAGES

Iga Swiatek claims Beijing title

Reuters
BEIJING

World No. 2 Iga Swiatek eased to a WTA Tour-leading fifth title this year by crushing unseeded Russian Liudmila Samsonova 6-2, 6-2 in the China Open final here on Sunday to tighten her battle with Aryna Sabalenka for the year-end No. 1 spot.

Swiatek shed tears of joy after her 69-minute masterclass, which left the four-time Grand Slam champion 465 points behind the top-ranked Sabalenka and with a big chance to leapfrog the Belarusian at the WTA Finals in Cancun, Mexico.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Chandre Gowda elected chairman & senior steward of Mysore Race Club

MYSURU: K.M. Chandre Gowda was unanimously elected as chairman & senior steward of the Mysore Race Club, for 2023-24, at the managing committee meeting on Sunday.
Stewards: K.M. Chandre Gowda and K.N. Suresh Kumar;
committee members: Gautam Basapa and Dr. M.V. Venu

10-member Karnataka tennis squad for National Games

BENGALURU: A 10-member squad will represent Karnataka in tennis at the 37th National Games scheduled to take place in Goa from October 30 to November 6.
At the last edition in Gujarat, Karnataka had secured eight medals (One gold, three silver and four bronze medals).
The squads:
Men: S.D. Prajwal Dev, A. Deepak, Rishi Reddy, Rashein Samuel and Kevin Suresh Titus.
Reserve: Suraj R. Prabodh.
Women: Sharmada Balu, Suhitha Maruri, Soha Sadiq, Prathiba Prasad Narayan and T. Sai Janvi.
Reserve: Siri Manjunath Patil.

Blue Star steamrollers Bangalore United

Blue Star thrashed Bangalore United 13-3 in the KSHA Super-10 five-a-side hockey tournament for V.J. D'Cruz Trophy here on Sunday.
Other results:
Falcon HC bt Coorg Direwolves 10-4.
Ascho bt Falcon 5-4.
Rainbow bt Bangalore United 7-2.
Bombers bt Coorg Direwolves 4-3.
Rising Star bt Warriors 7-1; Ascho bt Aristocrat 5-3.

IOA chief Usha says it's time for India to bid for the Summer Olympic Games

Press Trust of India
HANGZHOU

Buoyed by the record medal haul at the Hangzhou Asian Games, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president P.T. Usha on Sunday supported the government's plan to place a proposal to host the 2036 Olympics.

India won an unprecedented 107 medals, including 28 gold, in the Games that ended on Sunday. In the Chinese city, the country saw an increase of 37 medals from the previous best achieved in the 2018 edition.

"After this record-breaking performance in the Hangzhou Asian Games, if our country's athletes, coaches and national federations work hard, I feel we can win double digit medals in the Paris Olympics," said Usha.

P.T. Usha. AFP

Doing everything

"The government is doing everything possible for the betterment of Indian sports and for the athletes. Our Prime Minister takes a lot of interest in the country's sports." She said the time has come for India to bid for the Olympics.

"We should bid for the 2036 Olympics. I am sure India will win more medals in the Paris Olympics than in Tokyo, and then, with the medals to show, we can host the Olympics," said the 59-year-old.

Formal interest

The government could formally express India's interest to host the 2036 Olympics during the International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Mumbai from October 15 to 17.

After recent reforms, the IOC has moved away from the traditional bidding process. After the interested countries place their proposal of interest, the IOC's Future Host Commission will identify and propose its preferred candidate to the Executive Board.

The Executive Board can then enter targeted dialogue with a bid and then decide whether to recommend that a proposal be brought to a vote at an IOC Session.

Usha said she was not at all surprised at India winning more than 100 medals in Hangzhou.

"I am an athlete myself and I knew from the beginning that India will win more than 100 medals in Hangzhou. So I was not surprised when we crossed 100 medals," said Usha, who missed an Olympic 400m hurdles medal by one-hundredth of a second in the 1984 Los Angeles Games.